Alice
IN THE COUNTRY OF
Hearts
Love Labyrinth of Thorns
STORY QuinRose
ART Aoi Kurihara

GAME OF THORNS

Alice is an Outsider trying to find her way in a crazy new world. Julius is the Clockmaker, shunned by other role-holders and living like a hermit. Both have shut away their hearts behind walls of thorny vines. But when a meddling outside force turns those metaphorical thorns into something very real, both Alice and Julius must confront their own hearts and admit what they really feel. Otherwise, they could both remain trapped in the labyrinth of thorns forever!

Follow Alice, Ace, and Julius in this charming story set in the Country of Hearts, as they navigate their way through a maze like no other.

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Alice IN THE COUNTRY OF Hearts

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- STORY -

This is a love adventure game. It is based on *Alice in Wonderland*, but evolves into a completely different story.

The main character is far from a romantic. In fact, she's especially sick of love relationships.

She's pulled (against her will) into the dangerous Country of Hearts, which is not as peaceful as the name makes it sound. The Hatters are a mafia family, and even the employees of the Amusement Park carry weapons.

The leaders of the three domains are constantly trying to kill each other. Many of the skirmishes are the result of territory grabs by three major powers trying to control more land: the Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, and Gowland.

After drinking some strange medicine (again, against her will), the main character is unable to return to her world. She quickly decides that she's trapped in a dream and allows herself to enjoy(?) the extraordinary experience she's been thrown into.

What territory will she stay with and who will she interact with to get herself home?
And will this girl, so jaded about love, fall into a relationship she doesn't expect?

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Alice IN THE COUNTRY OF Hearts

LOVE LABYRINTH OF THORNS

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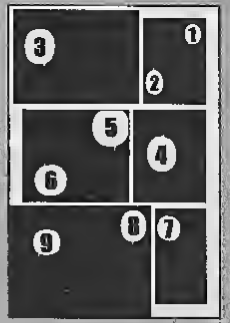
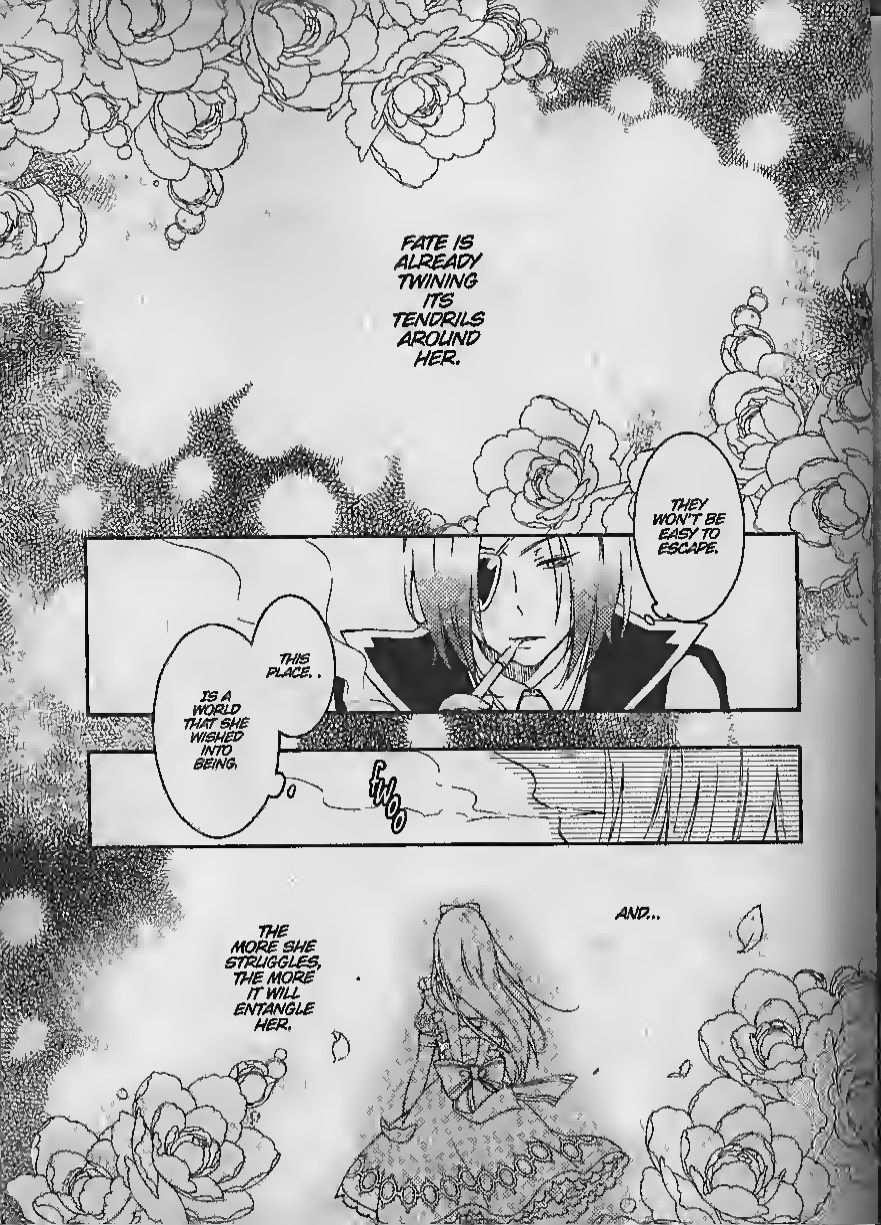
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!




FATE IS ALREADY TWINING ITS TENDRILS AROUND HER.
THEY WON'T BE EASY TO ESCAPE.
THIS PLACE..
IS A WORLD THAT SHE WISHED INTO BEING.
fwoo
AND...
THE MORE SHE STRUGGLES, THE MORE IT WILL ENTANGLE HER.

Alice in Country of Hearts
Character Information

Elliot March
VA: Tsugata Nitgami

The No. 2 of the Hatter Family and Blood's right-hand man, Elliot is an ex-criminal and an escaped convict. Very short tempered, he used to be a "very bad guy" who shot before asking questions. After partnering up with Blood, he reunited out and changed to a "slightly bad guy" who thinks for about three seconds before shooting. In his mind, this is a vast improvement.

Blood Dupre
VA: Kaisey Akikoshi

The dangerous leader of the crime syndicate known as the Hatter Family. Since he enjoys plotting more than working directly, he controls everything from the shadows. He's incredibly smart, but due to his temperamental moods and his desire to keep "it real," interesting, he often digs his own grave in his secret plans.

Alice Liddell
VA: Aie Inamiya

She grew up to be a responsible young woman after losing her mother early, but Alice still carries a complex toward her older sister. She respects her older sister very much, but is frustrated about always being compared to her. Since her first love fell for her older sister, she has no confidence in herself when it comes to romance.

Vivaldi
VA: Yuuko Kaida

Ruthless and cruel, the Queen of Hearts is an arrogant beauty with a wild temper. She's enemies with the Hatter and Gowland. Impatient at heart, Vivaldi takes her fury out on everyone around her including her subordinates whom she considers pawns. Anyone and anything for her doesn't even register as existing.

Tweedle Dum
VA: Jun Fukuyama

The second "Bloody Twin" and a plaid ringer for his brother—in both appearance and personality. As they often change places, it's uncertain which one is the older twin.

Tweedle Dee
VA: Jun Fukuyama

Gatekeeper of the Hatter territory, and one of the dark, sneaky twins. They sometimes show no innocent side, but they usually have a malicious agenda. Also known as the "Bloody Twins" due to their unsavory activities.

Ace
VA: Daisuke Hirakawa

The knight of Hearts and the ex-subordinate of Vivaldi. He's left the castle and is currently wandering. He's a very unlucky and unfortunate man, yet the remains strangely positive; thus he tends to "plow forward and make mistakes that only worsen his situation. He's one of the few friends of the clockmaker, Julius.

Julius Monrey
VA: Takehito Koyasu

The clockmaker, a gloomy machine expert who easily falls into depression. He lives in the Clock Tower and doesn't get out much. He always thinks of everything in the most negative way and tends to "distrust people, but he gets along with Ace. He had some part in the imprisonment of the March Hare, Elliot and is thus the target of Elliot's hatred.

Peter White
VA: Kouki Miyata

Don't be fooled by the cute ears—Peter is the dangerous guide who dragged Alice to Wonderland in the first place. He claims to always be worried about the time, despite having a strange grasp on it. Rumors say his heart is as black as his hair is white.

Nightmare
VA: Tomokazu Sugita

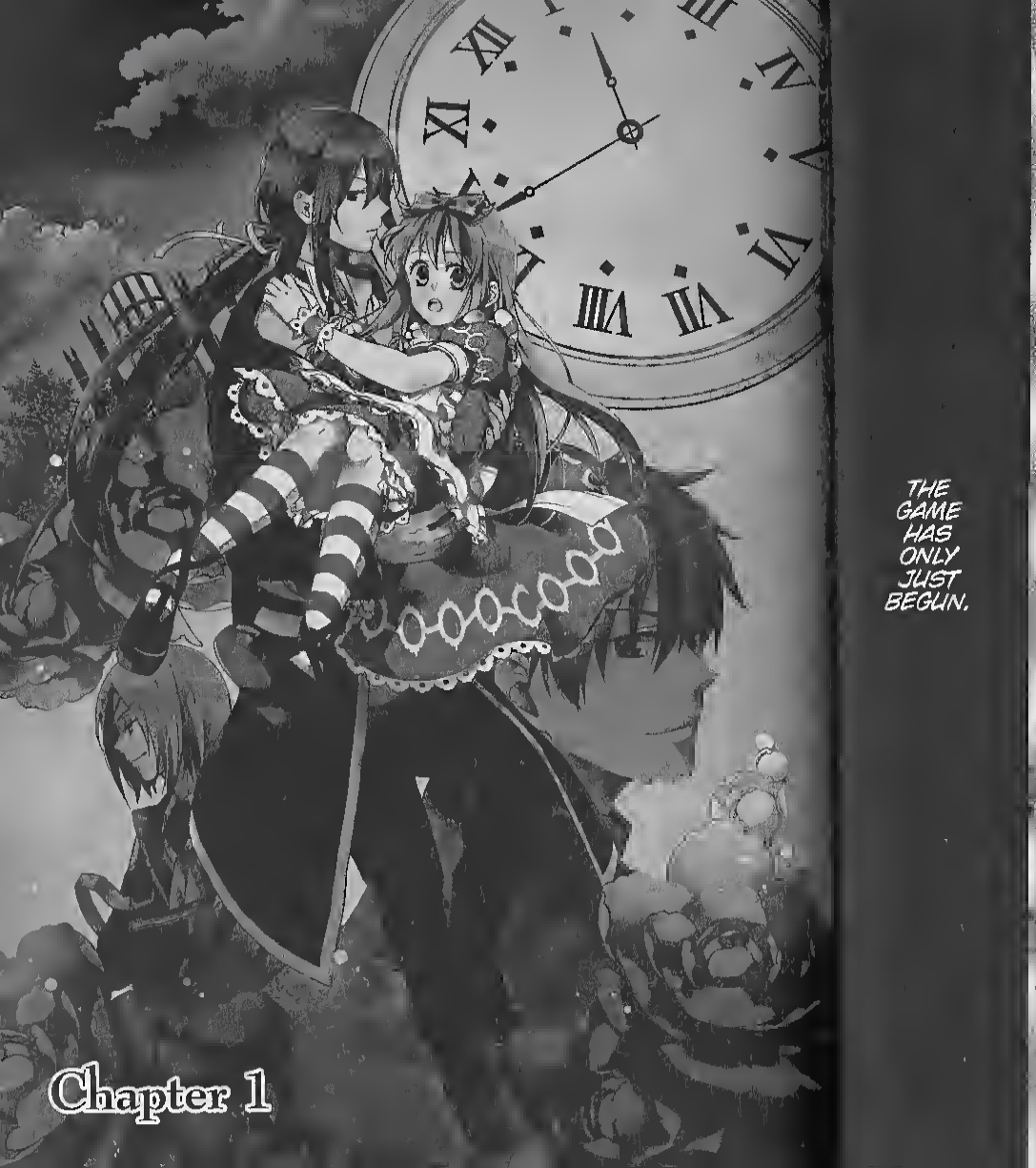
A sickly nightmare. He appears in Alice's dream, sometimes to guide her—and other times, to misguide her.

Mary Gowland
VA: Kazuyuki Okitsu

The owner of the Amusement Park. He hides he hated first name, Mary, but pretty much everyone already knows it. His full name is a play on words that sounds like "Merry Go Round" when said quickly. If his musical talent was given a numerical value, it would be closer to negatives than zero.

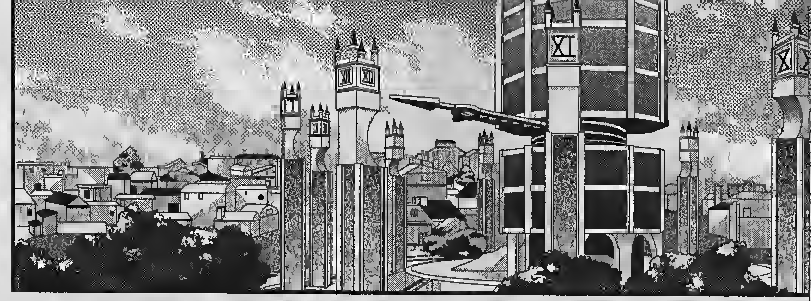
Boris Airay
VA: Toriaki Sagiyama

A riddle-loving cat with a signature smirk. He sometimes gives hints to his riddles, but the hints usually just cause more confusion. He also has a tendency to pose questions and never answer them.



THE GAME HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

LOOK, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.
BUT I DID PROMISE HIM...
A CUP OF COFFEE AS THANKS.
SIGH.
THANKS? FOR WHAT?
WELL, YOU SEE..
I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO PETER.
AHH! A CHANCE MEETING HERE IN TOWN!
IT APPEARS THAT OUR FATES ARE UTTERLY BOUND!
HE WAS ANNOYINGLY PERSISTENT-.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
THAT'S REALLY HEAVY.
PAT
ポ
ン
ッ
I HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY AT THE TIME...
SO I GAVE HER A HAND!

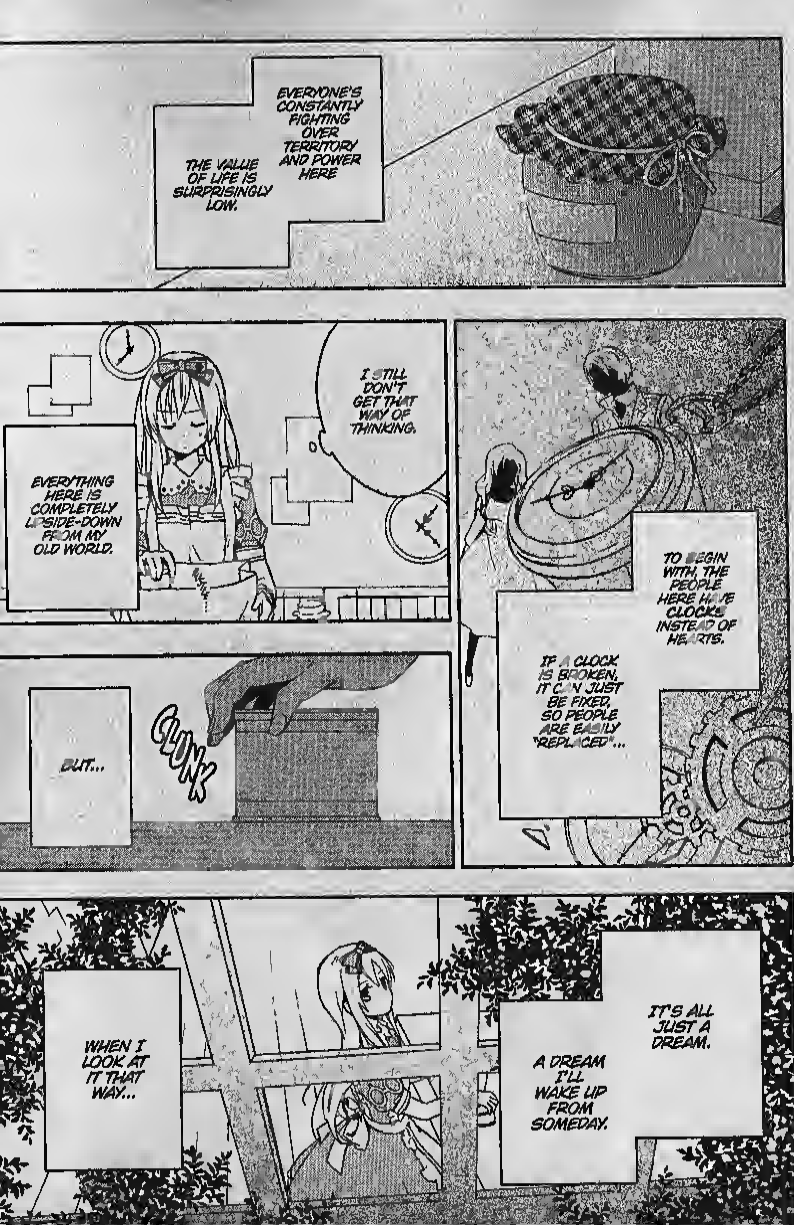


LET ME ASK YOU...
JUST ONE THING.
WHAT IS IT, JULIUS?

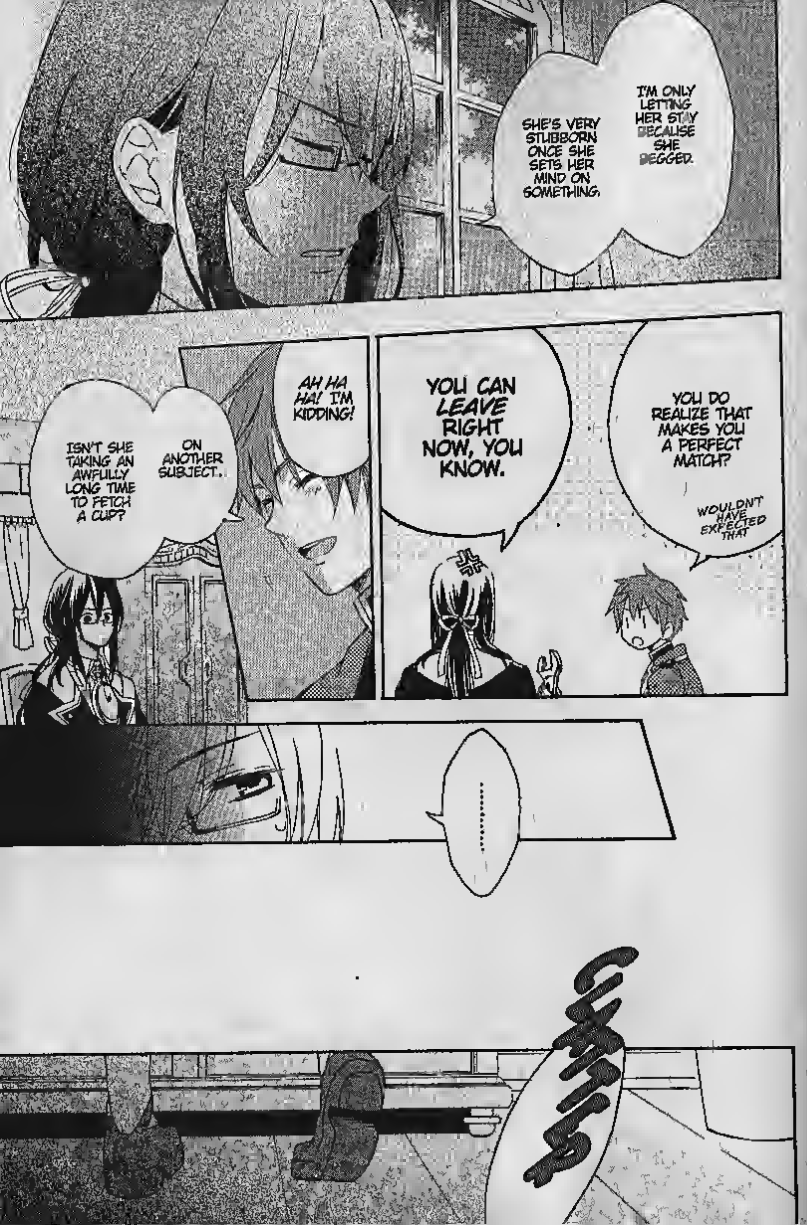
WEREN'T YOU ALONE WHEN YOU LEFT TO GO SHOPPING?
I'VE COME TO VISIT!

STEP
OH, REALLY.
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T I JUST SLEEP IN A TENT OUT IN FRONT OF THE CLOCK TOWER FROM NOW ON?
OOH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
I WANNA GO CAMPING!
LET'S HAVE A BARBECUE!
DEFINITELY
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT.

I SEE...
THAT CRAZY PETER..
HE WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT ME COMING TO LIVE AT HEART CASTLE.
I'VE SAID NO OVER AND OVER AGAIN, BUT HE JUST WON'T GIVE UP
IT'S REALLY EXHAUSTING!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY "NO"?
IF YOU FIND THE CLOCK TOWER BORING, COME LIVE WITH ME YOUR SUITOR ADORING!
LOOK, I REALLY DON'T CARE...
WHERE YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE.
HMPH
HE'S NOT QUITE CUTE ENOUGH TO GET AWAY WITH THIS.
CLINK CLINK


THE VALUE OF LIFE IS SURPRISINGLY LOW.
EVERYONE'S CONSTANTLY FIGHTING OVER TERRITORY AND POWER HERE
I STILL DON'T GET THAT WAY OF THINKING.
EVERYTHING HERE IS COMPLETELY UPSIDE-DOWN FROM MY OLD WORLD.
BUT...
CLUNK
TO BEGIN WITH, THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE CLOCKS INSTEAD OF HEARTS.
IF A CLOCK IS BROKEN, IT CAN JUST BE FIXED, SO PEOPLE ARE EASILY "REPLACED"...
WHEN I LOOK AT IT THAT WAY...
A DREAM I'LL WAKE UP FROM SOMEDAY.
IT'S ALL JUST A DREAM.

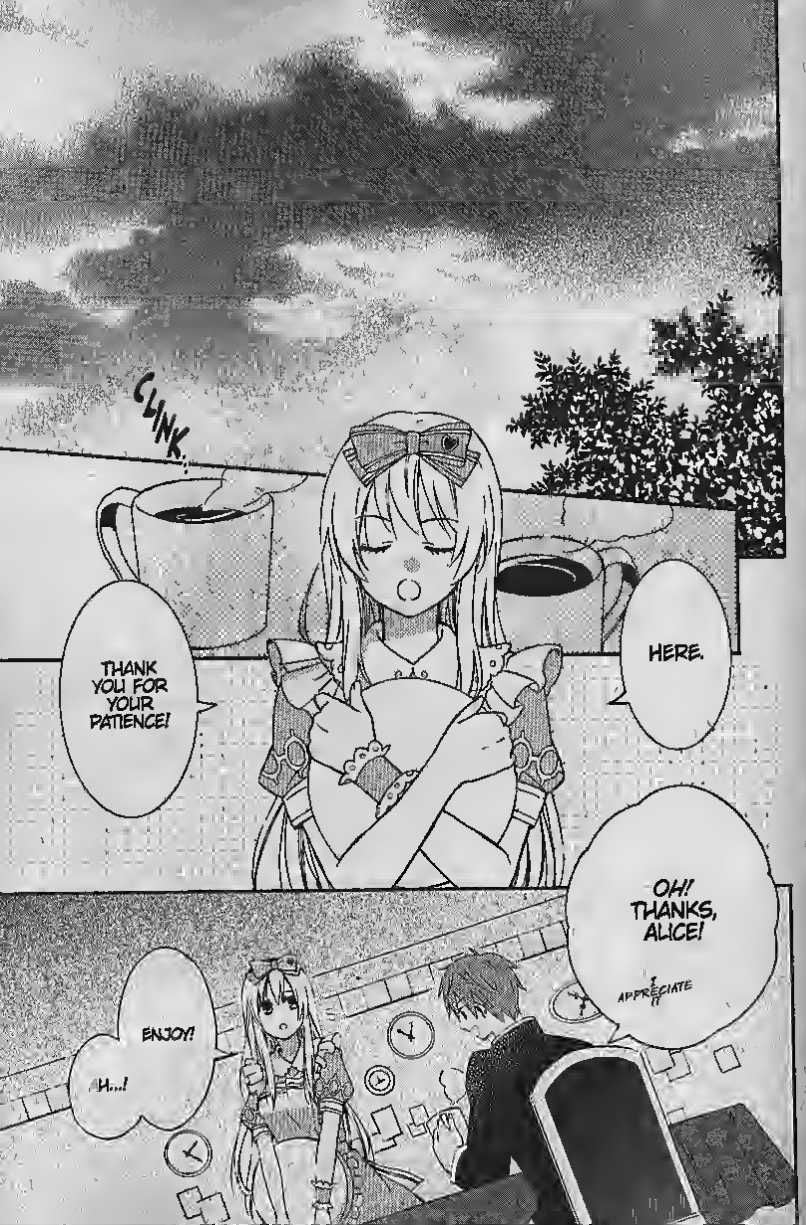
THIS IS THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS.
IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE A FAIRY TALE ON THE SURFACE.
IF YOU TAKE A STEP OUTSIDE, IT IS A DANGEROUS WORLD WHERE BULLETS CUT THROUGH THE AIR.
I WAS FORCEFULLY TAKEN HERE.
BY PETER, THE WHITE RABBIT.
HE FORCED ME TO DRINK THE MEDICINE OF HEART...
WHICH MEANS I'LL HAVE TO STAY IN THIS COUNTRY FOR A WHILE
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE FORCED THE MEDICINE ON ME WITH A KISS...
I GET ANGRY JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.


I'M ONLY LETTING HER STAY BECAUSE SHE BEGGED.
SHE'S VERY STUBBORN ONCE SHE SETS HER MIND ON SOMETHING.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT MAKES YOU A PERFECT MATCH?
WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THAT
YOU CAN LEAVE RIGHT NOW, YOU KNOW.
AH HA HA! I'M KIDDING!
ON ANOTHER SUBJECT..
ISN'T SHE TAKING AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO FETCH A CUP?
.....
SHEEEE

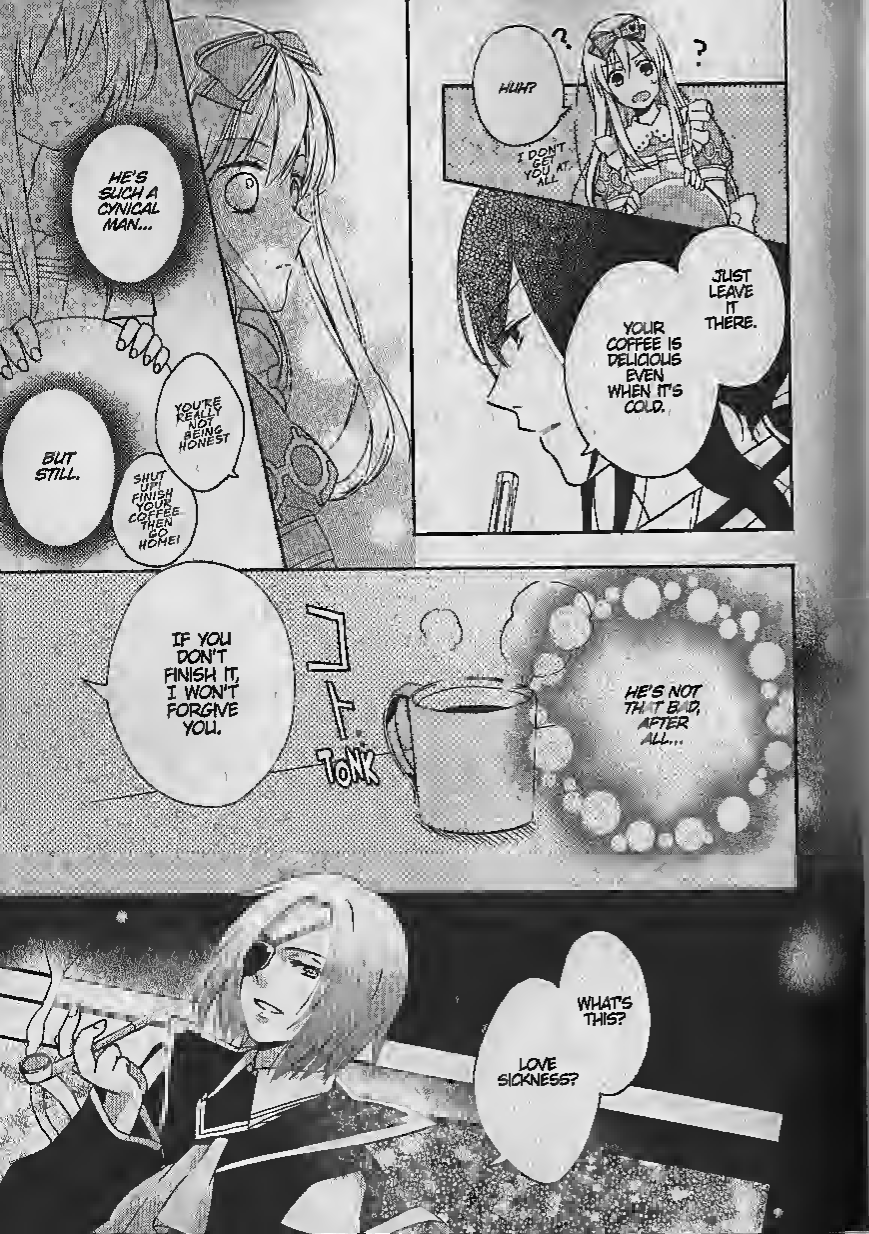
I'M ABLE TO ENJOY LIVING IN THIS CRAZY WORLD.
HEY, JULIUS.
CAN I USE THE EXTRA CUP?
SURE.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE IT IS?
YEAH, I DO.
STEP
STEP
YOU KNOW...
WHEN I FIRST HEARD THAT YOU LET A GIRL LIVE WITH YOU.
I WAS PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT HOW IT'D GO.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE WORKING OUT QUITE NICELY.

PLOP
HERE, HURRY UP AND HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS.
HUH? O-OKAY!
ACE IS GETTING IMPATIENT.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM COFFEE, GET ON WITH IT.
IT'S NOTHING. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SPECIAL.
I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME BUSINESS HERE.
OH... THANK YOU.

I WISH MY LEGS WERE JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER...!
GUH.
ぴょいっ
CHITTER
J...
JULIUS!



I FIND I'VE GROWN ATTACHED TO THIS WORLD.


HE'S SUCH A CYNICAL MAN...
BUT STILL.
YOU'RE REALLY NOT BEING HONEST
SHUT UP! FINISH YOUR COFFEE THEN GO HOME!
HUH?
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL.
YOUR COFFEE IS DELICIOUS EVEN WHEN IT'S COLD.
JUST LEAVE IT THERE.
IF YOU DON'T FINISH IT, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
TONK
HE'S NOT THAT BAD, AFTER ALL...
WHAT'S THIS?
LOVE SICKNESS?

BY THAT TIME IT'LL BE COLD.
YOU'RE REALLY OBSESSED WITH WORK.
AFTER I FINISH THIS JOB.
I MADE ENOUGH FOR THREE.
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP, TOO, JULIUS?
WOW, HAKSH.
STUFFY OLD HERMIT.
IF YOU SAY SO.
FINE! IF YOU DON'T WANT THE COFFEE, I'LL GET RID OF IT!
SNAP
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
I NEVER SAID I WOULDN'T DRINK IT.
YOU GUYS ACT LIKE AN OLD MARRIED COUPLE
SLURP
I DON'T... REMEMBER ASKING YOU TO POUR ME ANY COFFEE.

SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS WORLD, I'VE MET A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
THE HATTER MOB FAMILY...
ACE AND THE QUEEN FROM HEART CASTLE.
THE AMUSEMENT PARK PEOPLE...
JULIUS WAS ONE OF THE ODDEST ONES.
EVEN WHEN I FIRST ASKED TO STAY IN THE CLOCK TOWER...
WE ARGUED ABOUT IT.
BUT...

YOU READ MY THOUGHTS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU...
NIGHT-MARE?
REALLY?
ANYWAY, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
.....
ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
KNOW WHAT?

THIS IS A DREAM, AFTER ALL.
YOU SHOULD JUST DO WHATEVER YOUR HEART DESIRES.
GRIN
REVEL IN IT.

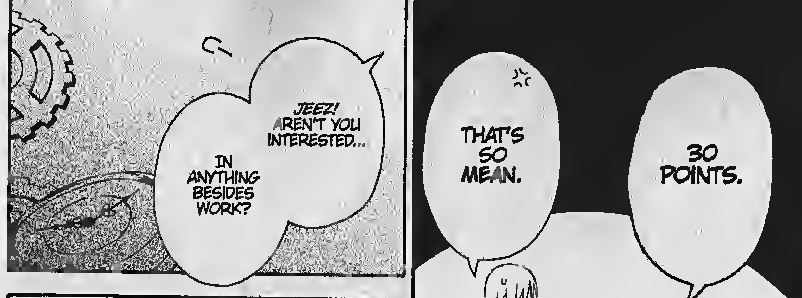
BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A VERY KIND PERSON.
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS FEELING IS OR WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH IT.
LOOKS LIKE... IT'S ALMOST TIME.
FZZT...
HUH?

I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY USED TO IT.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I SEE.
SHIP
TINKER TINKER
JULIUS.
YOU'RE GOING TO WORK YOURSELF INTO AN EARLY GRAVE
YOU SHOULD PACE YOURSELF BETTER AND TAKE MORE BREAKS
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT A BREAK IS?
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THE SCORE TODAY?
FOR THE COFFEE.

CREAK.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK SOON?
YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?
YOU SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SLEEP NOW. WHO KNOWS WHEN NIGHT WILL COME AGAIN.
THAT'S TRUE.
IT WAS A BIT EXHAUSTING WHEN WE HAD DAY AND EVENING FOR TEN TIME CHANGES IN A ROW.

Flashback.
ACE BLABBED ON ME...!
THE COFFEE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BRIBE TO KEEP HIM QUIET
OH, YEAH. THAT.
IF YOU LAY A FINGER ON HIM, I'LL HATE YOU FOREVER.
SNIFF
WITH ACE NOT YET IN HANDS
YOU INTERFERED WITH ACE AND THE WHITE RABBIT.
I HEARD YOU GRABBED A GUN WITH YOUR BARE HANDS TO STOP THEM.
NO ONE FROM THE WORLD WOULD EVER DO A STUNT LIKE THAT

I COULDN'T LET ANYONE ELSE GET HURT.
THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND.
AND BESIDES ...
I WAS THE REASON THEY WERE FIGHTING TO BEGIN WITH.
I DON'T CARE.
EVEN IF THEY DID GET HURT, THEY'RE EASILY REPLACED...
ALL THE BY-STANDERS WERE FACELESS, RIGHT?


JEEZ! AREN'T YOU INTERESTED... IN ANYTHING BESIDES WORK?
.....
THAT'S SO MEAN.
30 POINTS.

WHAT?
NO.
CLINK
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT.
YOU SHOULDN'T STICK YOUR NOSE INTO DANGEROUS PLACES.
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.
SIGH
I'M BEGGING YOU.
.....
THUMP
WHOA ?!
PULL

I DON'T WANT THEM TO DISAP-PEAR.
YOU ARE REALLY..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT YOU, BUT--
OH!
A FRESH CUP OF COFFEE.
LET ME GET IT FOR YOU.
I REALLY CAN'T DEAL WITH A LECTURE RIGHT BEFORE BED.
SHUFFLE

AH, AHH... NO.
SLIP...
GASP
JULIUS.
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU.
TURN
I DON'T NEED ANY MORE COFFEE.
YOU GO GET SOME REST.
.....?

I TAKE CARE OF MY PROBLEMS ALONE.
AND SOMETIMES THAT MEANS I GET OVER-WHELMED.
WELL, I CAN'T DENY THAT..
I...!
I CAN'T HELP IT. THAT'S MY PERSONALITY.
FLINCH
EVEN IN MY OLD WORLD...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN HELP ME WITH TODAY.
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT OR SOMETHING?
PASS
DON'T TOUCH THAT.
CHAPTER 11
HUH ...?
GA-CHAK...
OKAY, ARE WE OUT OF ANYTHING?
I CAN GO SHOP...
GASHAK...

NO.
I'M FINE.
TINKER TINKER.
JULIUS, YOU WANT SOME COFFEE?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING THIS WHOLE TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
CLINK
OKAY...
THAT'S WEIRD.
HE ALWAYS SAYS YES TO COFFEE WHEN HE'S WORKING...
I'VE PICKED UP ENOUGH TO BE USEFUL NOW--
I THINK...
OH!
THEN LET ME HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK!

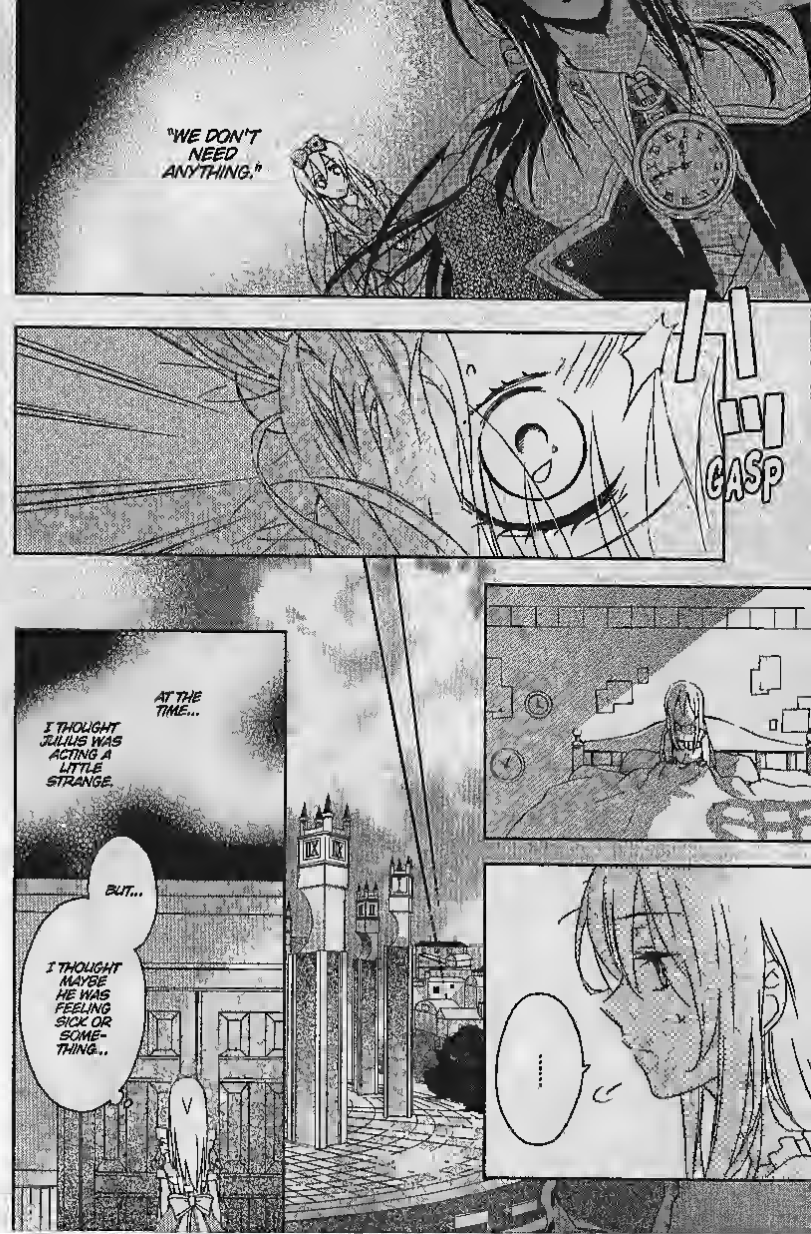
ハートの国のアリス

恋する茨の迷宮

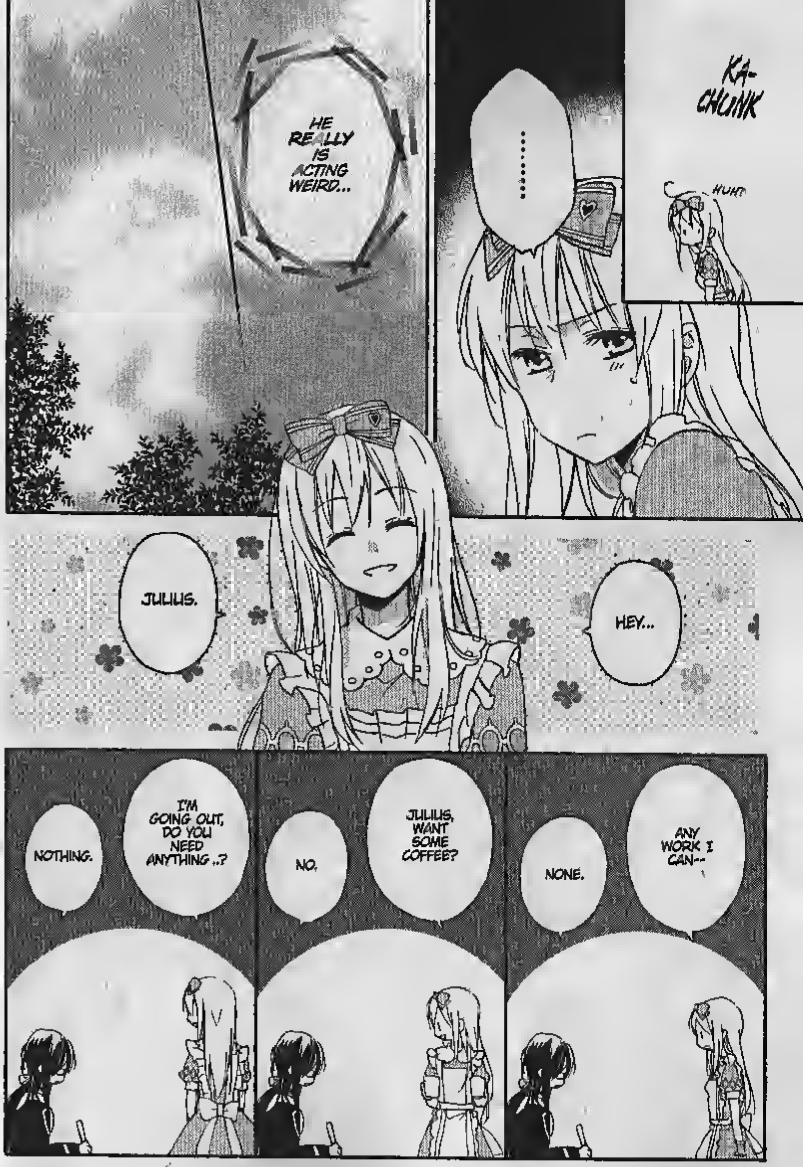
Alice in the Country of Hearts

Love Labyrinth of Thorns

!
GA-CHAK
I WAS SO STRESSED OUT I COULDN'T SLEEP WELL...
YAWN
WAH--! HE'S GOING TO SAY SOMETHING SARCASTIC AGAIN...
ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU LOOK LIKE A PIG WITH YOUR MOUTH HANGING OPEN LIKE THAT?
PASS...
OOPS!
POFF


"WE DON'T NEED ANYTHING."
GASP
AT THE TIME...
I THOUGHT JULIUS WAS ACTING A LITTLE STRANGE.
BUT...
I THOUGHT MAYBE HE WAS FEELING SICK OR SOMETHING...
.....

HEY.
FUUUUME
TLT
HUH?
PULL
WH...
WHAT IS IT?
JULI...?


HE REALLY IS ACTING WEIRD...
KA-CHUNK
HUH?
JULIUS.
HEY...
NOTHING.
I'M GOING OUT, DO YOU NEED ANYTHING..?
NO.
JULIUS, WANT SOME COFFEE?
NONE.
ANY WORK I CAN--

DID I DO SOMETHING TO OFFEND HIM...?
HE WON'T EVEN LET ME TALK TO HIM...
TAK
OR JUST RUIN MY MOUTH OFF WITHOUT THINKING?
STUFFY OLD HERMIT!
.....
DID I MESS UP HIS WORK...
O...OKAY, SO MAYBE I MIGHT HAVE PISSED HIM OFF A LITTLE...
BUT STILL....!
SHIVER

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE CONSTANTLY UNDERFOOT, STAY OUTSIDE.
TOSS
KA-CHUNK
WH...
SNAP
I MEAN, JULIUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN GROUCHY, BUT THIS?
WHAT THE HELL?!

I HAVEN'T--
CUT IT OUT!
IF YOU'RE MAD AT ME, I WANT TO KNOW WHY.
I CAN'T APOLOGIZE IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE.

I'M NOT ANGRY.
AND YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
THEN WHY HAVE YOU BEEN AVOIDING ME?
UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE--
NO, YOU'VE GOT THAT BACKWARDS. UNTIL NOW, I PUT UP A FALSE FRONT.
NOW I'VE SIMPLY LET MY TRUE NATURE SHOW AGAIN

HE SHOULD JUST TELL ME TO MY FACE LIKE HE ALWAYS HAS!!
KA-CHUNK
STEP
STEP
STEP
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS...
JULIUS!
BAM!

DON'T PLAY DUMB.
YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

FWAP
ALL RIGHT, I CAN TAKE A HINT!
JULIUS, YOU...! YOU IDIOT!!
SLAM!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE REAL ME...
YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE THE CLOCK TOWER.

WOW, FOR A SMART GUY YOU'RE INCREDIBLY DENSE.
.....
WHAT?
THIS ISN'T HER HOME.
SHE MUST RETURN TO HER WORLD SOMEDAY...

OOF!
ALICE?!
I'M THE ONE WHO DROVE HER OUT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FOLLOW HER?
HEY, JULIUS.
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER

JULLUS, YOU STUPID, STUPID IDIOT!!
IF HE WANTED ME TO LEAVE, HE COULD HAVE JUST SAID SO!!
CRUNCH
BUT STILL...
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS HAPPY HAVING ME THERE TO BEGIN WITH...
JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT— I DON'T CARE!!
FINE THEN, I'LL START THAT!

ALICE'S HOME...
IS SOMETHING SHE GETS TO CHOOSE FOR HERSELF.
KA-CHUNK...
CRUMPLE

RUSTLE...
IF YOU HATE ME...
DON'T CONFUSE ME BY BEING KIND.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BUCKLE
?!
HUH ...?
OH SHOOT, I'VE GOTTEN AWFULLY DEEP INTO THE FOREST...
I HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE I'M GOING BEFORE THE TIME PERIOD CHANGES TONIGHT.
I SHOULD GET BACK TO TOWN...

"YOU SHOULD JUST..."
"LEAVE THE CLOCK TOWER."
I THOUGHT WE HAD...
SOME FUN TIMES TOGETHER...
SQUEEZE

I WAS PLANNING A MUCH COOLER RESCUE.
A...
ACE!
OUCH.
WELL THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT SO GREAT.
GASP
I'LL BE OKAY IF I REST A BIT.
PANG
PANG
PANG
PANG
I... I'M FINE. IT LOOKS LIKE I JUST SPRAINED MY LITTLE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WH... WHY...
...?!
PANG

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUSTLE
FALLING --!
CRASH

I THINK I'M SCARED...
JULIUS MIGHT REJECT ME AGAIN.
WHY NOT?
YOU'RE GOING TO LAUGH BECAUSE IT'S REALLY UNLIKE ME, BUT...
IT'S REALLY...
UNLIKE ME.

YOU COULD'VE MADE YOUR POINT WITHOUT GRABBING IT SO HARD!
YOU'RE NOT FINE AT ALL!
LIAR!
SUPER SMUG!
OUCH, OUCH, OUCH!
FOOLISH!
HYAH!

WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE CLOCK TOWER AND JULIUS WILL--
IT'LL BE A PAIN TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT TIME CHANGE, HUH?
I CAN'T.

I CAN'T GO BACK.

CREAK
HUH?
CLUNK

YOU'RE RIGHT.
HEY, EASE UP ON THE PUPPY-DOG EYES.
CHUCKLE
A... ACE...?

CLINK
"JULIUS, YOU IDIOT!!"
YES.

TONK
ALL RIGHT, ALICE...
TRY TO GET AWAY FROM ME, THEN.
YOU CAN'T DO IT, CAN YOU?
FINGER
SEE?
CLAIRE
WIGGLE...
GRIP
DAMMIT, I CAN'T BUDGE!

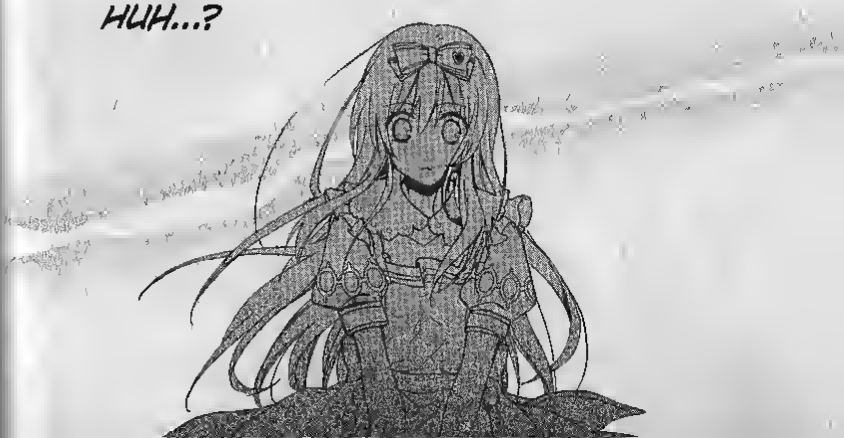
IT MAKES ME WANT TO CUDDLE YOU.
HA HA HA! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR OLD SELF.
PUSH!
YOU'RE ALREADY DOING THAT! LET ME GO!!
I SEE...
I'M FINE! DON'T PATRONIZE ME!
IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL TO SPEND THE NIGHT OUTSIDE.
LET'S GO BACK TO THE CLOCK TOWER FOR NOW.

I DIDN'T WANT TO DEPEND ON ANYONE...
WHY...
JULIUS...
NO MATTER WHERE I WAS OR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...
HE WOULDN'T COME SAVE ME...!
WHY AM I SO SAD THAT JULIUS WOULDN'T COME FOR ME...?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...

TH-THAT'S NOT FAIR!!
YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PREPARE, OR I'D HAVE GOTTEN AWAY!!
DO YOU THINK AN ENEMY WILL WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE READY?
UGH...
AND THAT ANKLE...
YOU COULDN'T RUN AWAY EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO.
PANG
I...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU
JULIUS WOULD WORRY.
I'VE ALWAYS DONE AS MUCH AS I COULD ON MY OWN.
.....

!
WOBBLE
DROOP...

WHY DON'T WE TEST HIM?


HUH...?

ハートの国のアリス

恋する茨の迷宮

Chapter 3

Alice in the Country of Hearts

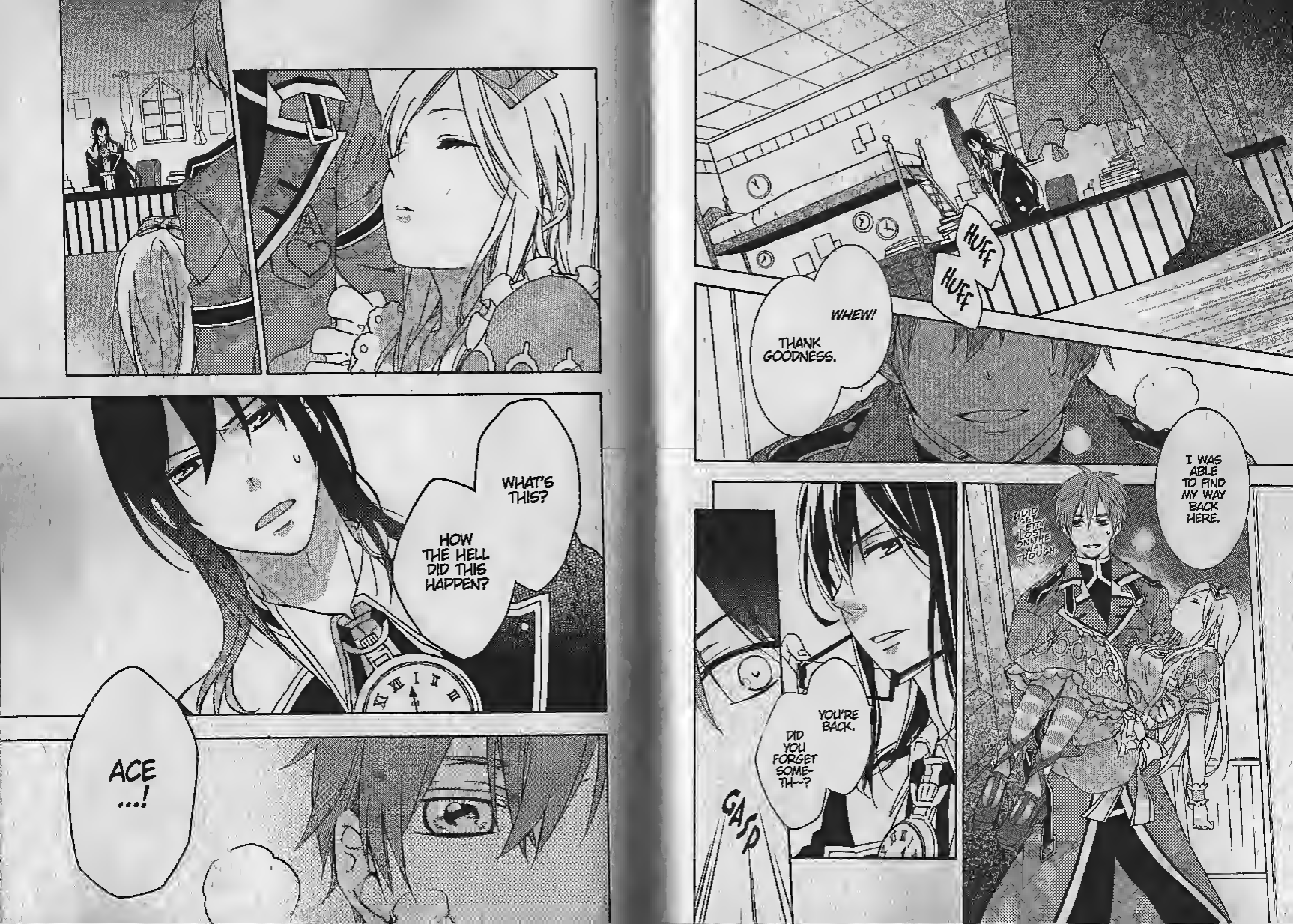
Love Labyrinth of Thorns

GUESS I'LL MAKE SOME FRESH COFFEE...
CLATTER
COLD AS ICE.
CLUNK

ALICE!!
HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT!
ALICE!!
HEH.
VERY GOOD.
NOW, WHAT WILL HIS MOVE BE?

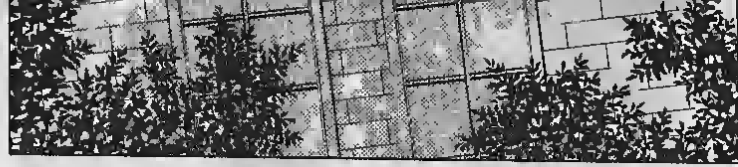
NO, IT'S..
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?
I...!
!
IT'S JUST..
BANG!
SHE DIDN'T BELONG--

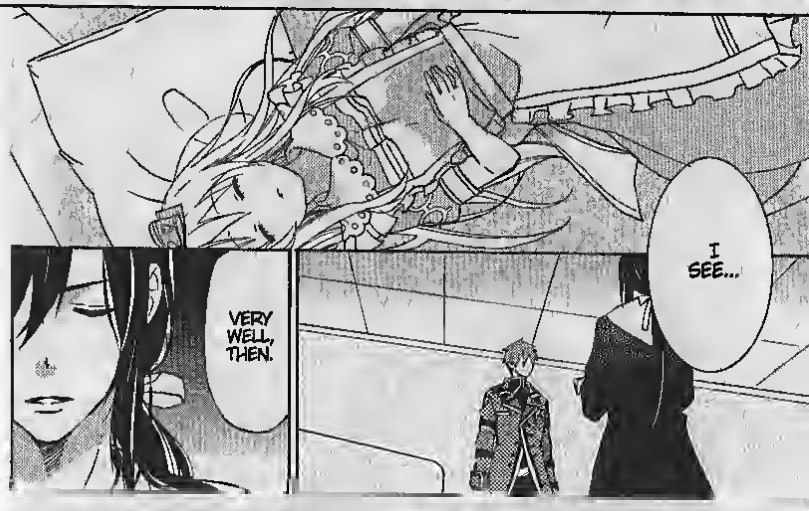
"HERE'S YOUR COFFEE."
"THIS TIME I'LL DEFINITELY GET A PERFECT SCORE OUT OF YOU!"
CLANK!
SWEEP
ATTACK!


HUFF
HUFF
WHEW!
THANK GOODNESS.
I WAS ABLE TO FIND MY WAY BACK HERE.
I DID GET LITTLE LOST ON THE WAY THO...
GASP
YOU'RE BACK.
DID YOU FORGET SOME-TH--?
WHAT'S THIS?
HOW THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?
ACE ...!

JULIUS...?
SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHY SHE FELL UNCONSCIOUS...
KEEPING HER HERE WON'T DO HER ANY GOOD.
THERE ARE DOCTORS IN THE CASTLE WHO CAN HELP.

GRIP
THE WHITE RABBIT IS AT THE CASTLE, TOO.
BESIDES...
THAT'S RIGHT.




I SEE...
VERY WELL, THEN.

ACE, TAKE ALICE TO HEART CASTLE.
NOW.

I MUSTN'T GET DRAWN IN ANY DEEPER.
IT'S NO LONGER MY CONCERN.
HMM...
THEN...
CHINK
チャキ。。

HE'LL TAKE BETTER CARE OF HER...
THAN A GRUMPY OLD HERMIT WHO KICKED HER OUT.
SO TAKE HER THERE, AND QUICKLY.
IT'S FOR THE BEST.
EITHER WAY.
SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE.
SHUT IT DOWN.

...SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE?
JULIUS...
YOU DON'T...
HAVE ANY MORE TIES TO THE GIRL, DO YOU?

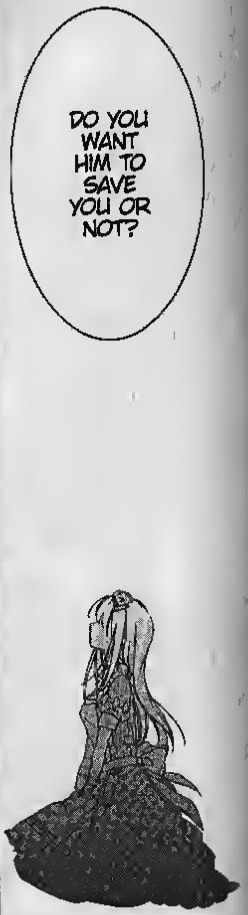
I SUPPOSE YOU WON'T CARE...
IF I KILL HER ON THE SPOT.
PAUSE...
?!
ACE ...?!
WELL, SHE'S PROBABLY NEVER WAKING UP.
SO WE SHOULD JUST PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY.
BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY...

NN...
SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE?
WHERE AM I...?
AH.
DROP
スレ
!!

I CAN'T... GO BACK?
WAIT, WHAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I CAN'T RETURN?!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID?
"WHY DON'T WE TEST HIM?"
YES, I REMEMBER...
OH, HELL NO..!
I NEVER AGREED TO ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
SNEAKY!
DETAILS, DETAILS.
THE CLOCKMAKER MUST COME AND RESCUE YOU.
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO RETURN.
...!

NIGHTMARE!! AM I...?!
WAIT.
K...
KYAAAAH!!
SCOOTCH
NO.
I JUST BROUGHT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE DREAM WORLD, THAT'S ALL.
A MERE TRIFLE
?
HMM?
IT'S ONE OF NIGHT-MARE'S WHIMS...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND BUT
AND YOU CAN NO LONGER RETURN TO THE WAKING WORLD.

WHAT ARE...
YOUR REAL FEELINGS?
MY...
REAL FEELINGS ...?
BANG


DO YOU WANT HIM TO SAVE YOU OR NOT?

HE'LL NEVER COME...!
.....
YOU ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE.
ADMITTING DEFEAT WHEN THE GAME'S JUST BEGINNING.
HOW VERY UNLIKE YOU.
.....
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
ALICE...
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.
THOSE ARE THE RULES.
WHA ...?!

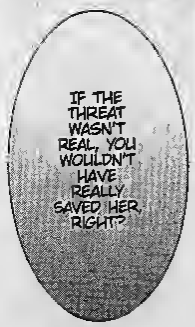
WHY ARE YOU INTERFERING...
JULIUS?
FINE, YOU WIN...
I GIVE UP.
SIGH
FINE. I'LL JUST CUT OFF ONE OF HER ARMS...
WHAT, YOU STILL CAN'T SAY IT?
GRIP
.....
THAT IS...
LET'S SEE RIGHT OR LEFT...
STOP IT!!
SHE'S A STRANGER, AND AN OUTSIDER TO BOOT...
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SOMEONE DIES IN FRONT OF ME.

CLANG
ガラン
CLATTER
ガラン
MY, MY.
HUFF...
IF SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE, AND YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH HER...

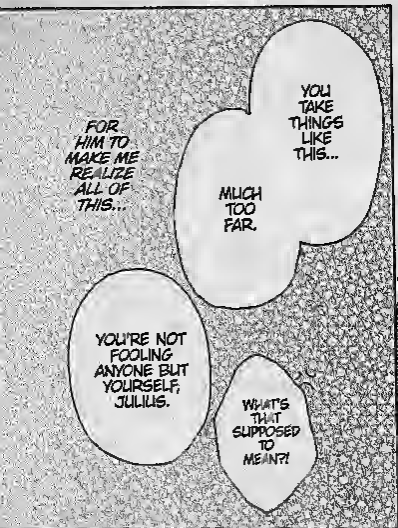
YOU WERE SERIOUS...?
DON'T JOKE ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT
AND I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER!
BESIDES, YOU'VE USED ME TO GETTING BLOOD EVERYWHERE.
IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME...
I'D HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH WITH IT!

OH, THANK GOODNESS!

GOOD-NESS...

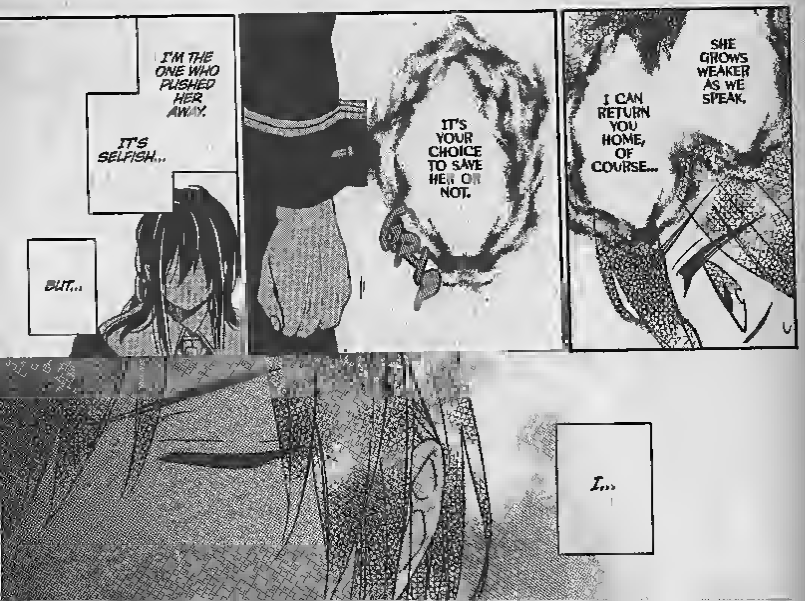

IF THE THREAT WASN'T REAL, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE REALLY SAVED HER, RIGHT?

!!!
LOOK...


FOR HIM TO MAKE ME REALIZE ALL OF THIS...
YOU TAKE THINGS LIKE THIS...
MUCH TOO FAR.
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE BUT YOURSELF, JULIUS.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

I...
THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT.
DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER.
NO.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF I DIDN'T CARE.

SHE IS AT THE TOP OF THAT TOWER.
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE HER...
THEN STEP INTO...
MY LITTLE GAME.
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL RETURN SAFELY...
SHEESH, HE SOUNDS LIKE THE FINAL BOSS IN AN RPG.
.....
SHOULD WE TRUST HIM?


I'M THE ONE WHO PUSHED HER AWAY.
IT'S SELFISH...
BUT...
IT'S YOUR CHOICE TO SAVE HER OR NOT.
I CAN RETURN YOU HOME, OF COURSE...
SHE GROWS WEAKER AS WE SPEAK.
I...

GOOD, YOU'RE FINALLY DONE TALKING.
FWIP
I AM HOLDING ALICE HOSTAGE.
WHAT?! HE'S TALKING IN MY HEAD...!
...!

I SEE.
SO IT WAS YOU, NIGHT-MARE...!!
CORRECT.
!
UNDO!

ALICE...!
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL HER.
WE'LL BRING HER BACK, YOU MADMAN ...!!
I'M WITH YOU.
CHINK...
FWIP
!
VERY WELL, THEN.
パチン
SNAP

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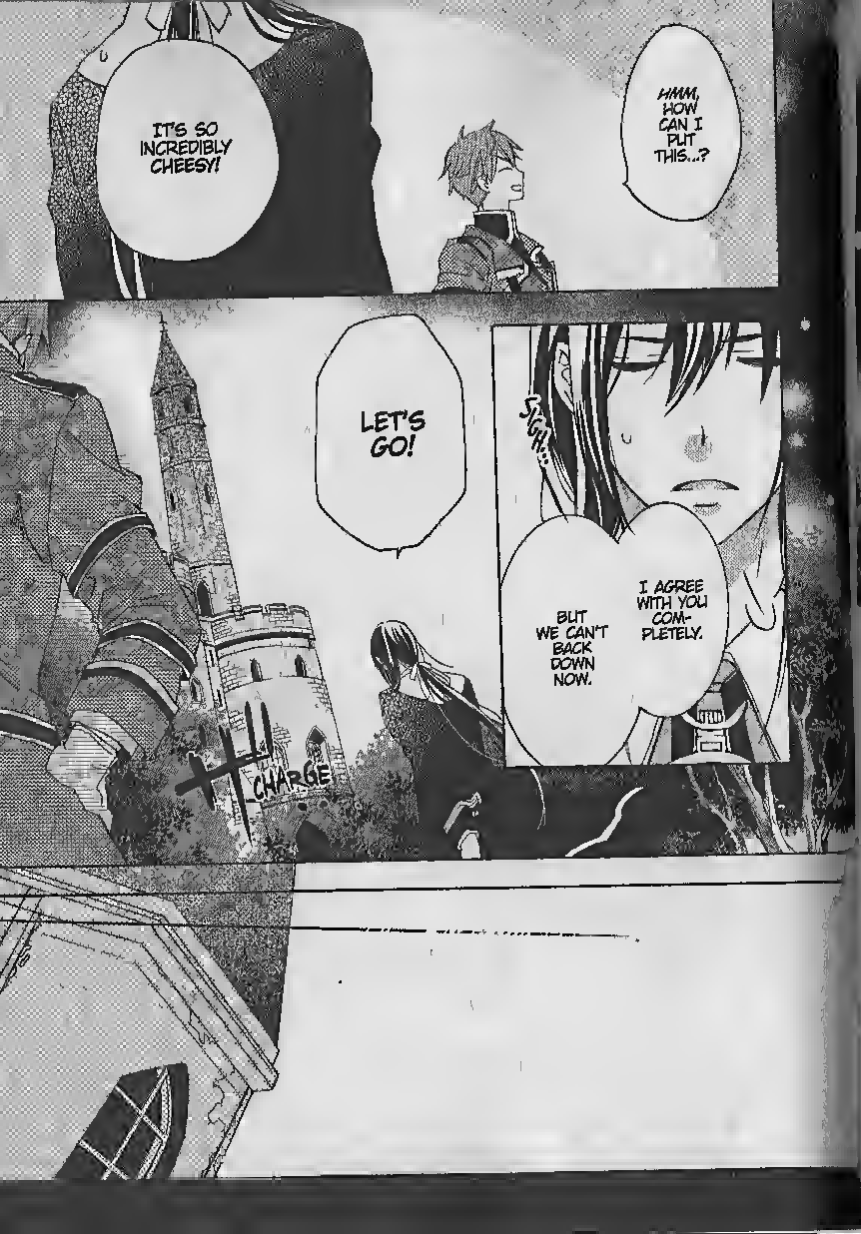
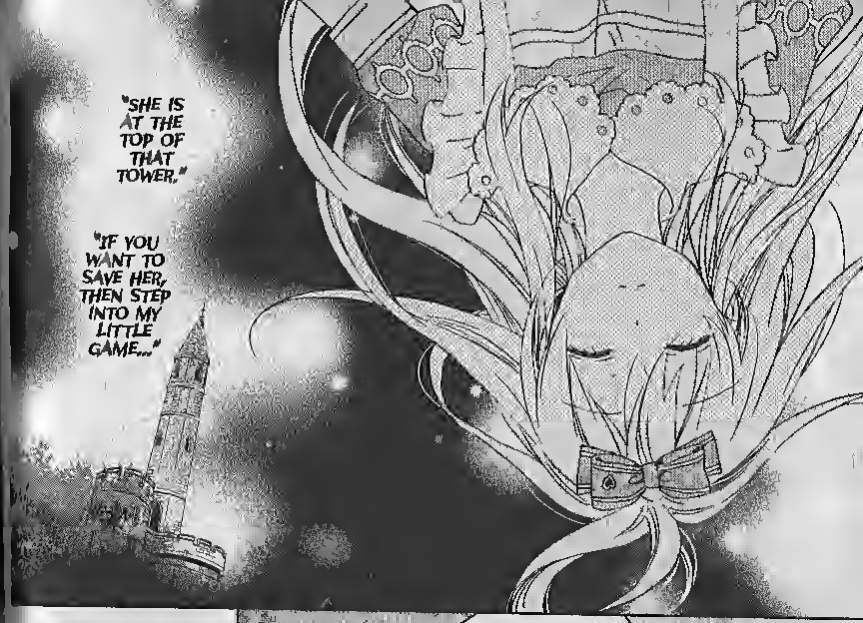
恋する茨の迷宮

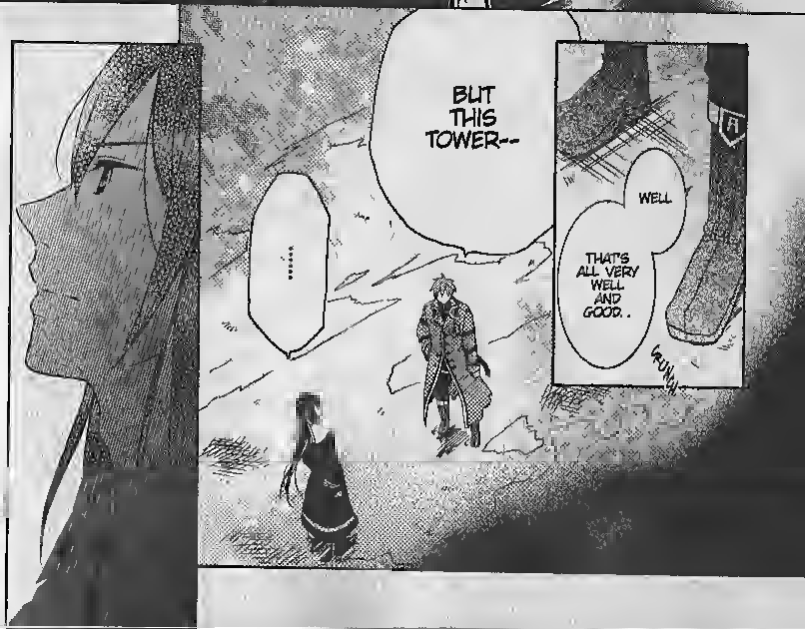
Chapter 4

Alice in the Country of Hearts

Love Labyrinth of Thorns


IT'S SO INCREDIBLY CHEESY!
HMM, HOW CAN I PUT THIS...?
LET'S GO!
SIGH...
I AGREE WITH YOU COMPLETELY.
BUT WE CAN'T BACK DOWN NOW.
CHARGE


"SHE IS AT THE TOP OF THAT TOWER."
"IF YOU WANT TO SAVE HER, THEN STEP INTO MY LITTLE GAME..."


BUT THIS TOWER--
.....
WELL
THAT'S ALL VERY WELL AND GOOD..
GRUMBLE

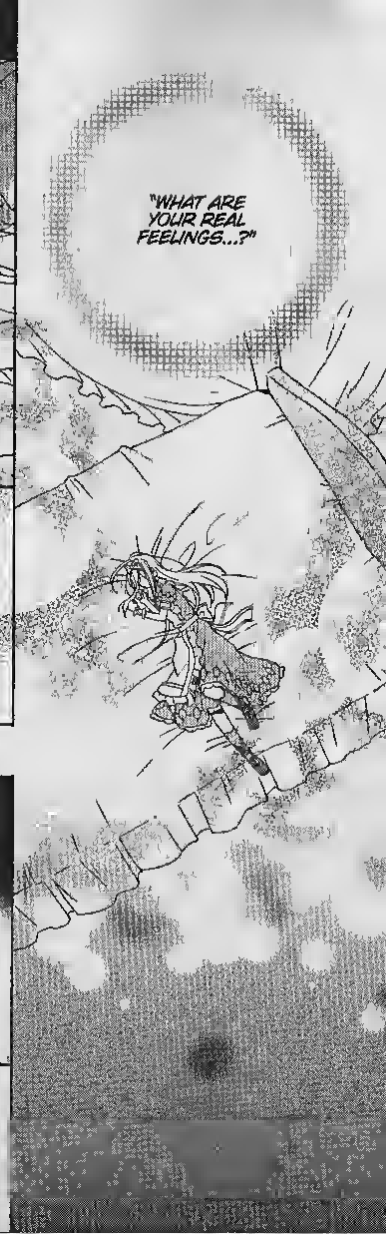
SIGH
I'M PRETTY MUCH STUCK.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM.
EVEN IF I COULD..
CLATTER
THERE ARE THORNY VINES COVERING THE WINDOWS AND DOOR.
SO I C N'T OPEN THEM...
DAMN NIGHTMARE AND HIS STUPID GAMES...
WHAT ON EARTH IS HE TRYING TO DO HERE...?
"ALICE, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?"
"DO YOU WANT HIM TO SAVE YOU..."
"OR NOT...?"

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
IT WON'T BUDGE AN INCH.
HUFF
NO USE...
HUFF
JEEZ~!! WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?!

BE VERY CAUTIOUS!
AND DEFINITELY DON'T BREAK ANYTHING.
YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH ANYTHING YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
A TOWER MADE BY THAT NIGHTMARE-- DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE JUST HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE TOWER.
CLUNK
HUH?
It's all mine.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHOOSH
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?!
SORRY, I'VE GOT NO SELF-CONTROL AROUND STUFF LIKE THIS.

MY REAL FEELINGS, HUH?

I WAS EXPECTING A TON OF TRAPS...
CLACK
CLACK


"WHAT ARE YOUR REAL FEELINGS...?"

SLASH
ACE ?!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE BASTARDS.
BUT, ACE...
I SUMMONED THEM, I'LL DEAL WITH 'EM!
AHAHAHA!
OH! ONE LAST THING.
YOU GO ON AHEAD, JULIUS.

SLOUUUUURCH
OOPS, SORRY.
THIS IS WHY I WARNED YOU NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING!!
AHAHAHA!

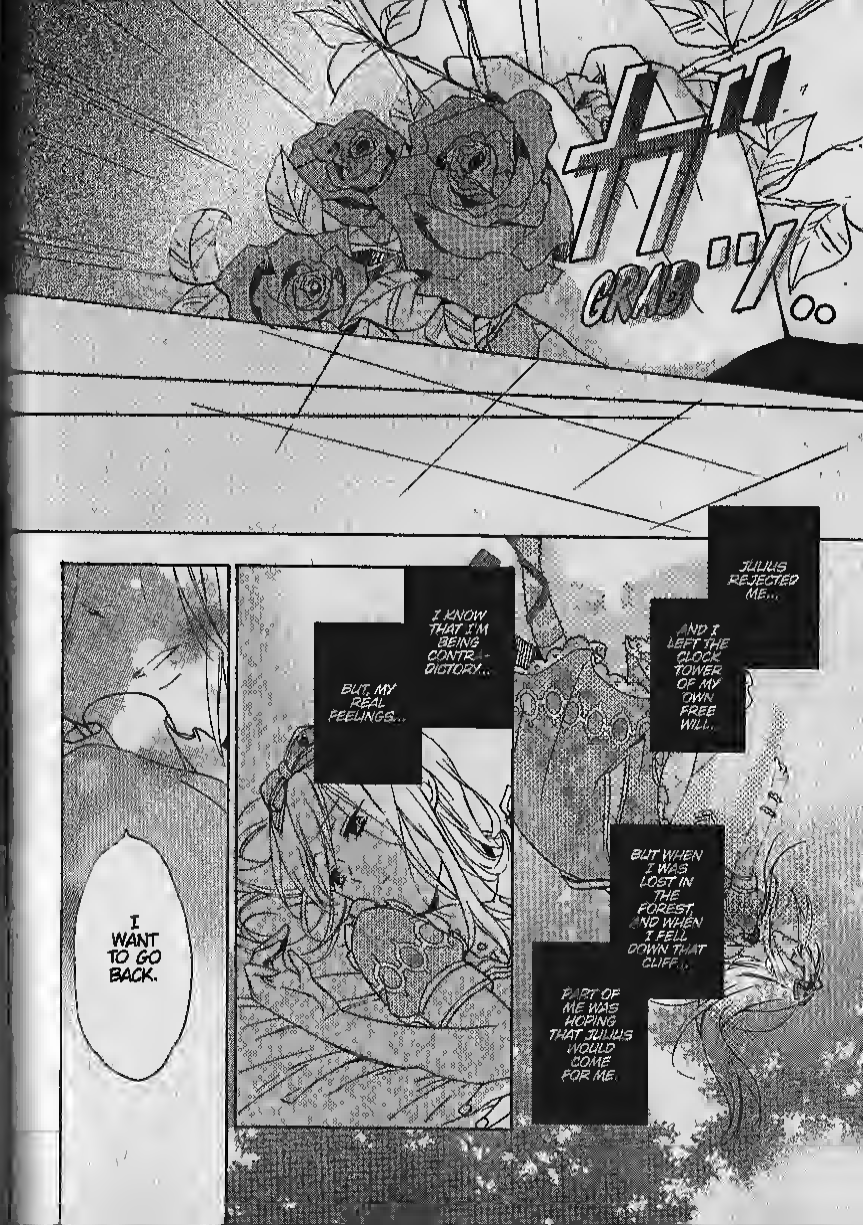
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR DOOM.
HUFF...
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
HUFF...
HUFF...
ゴゥッ
SFX

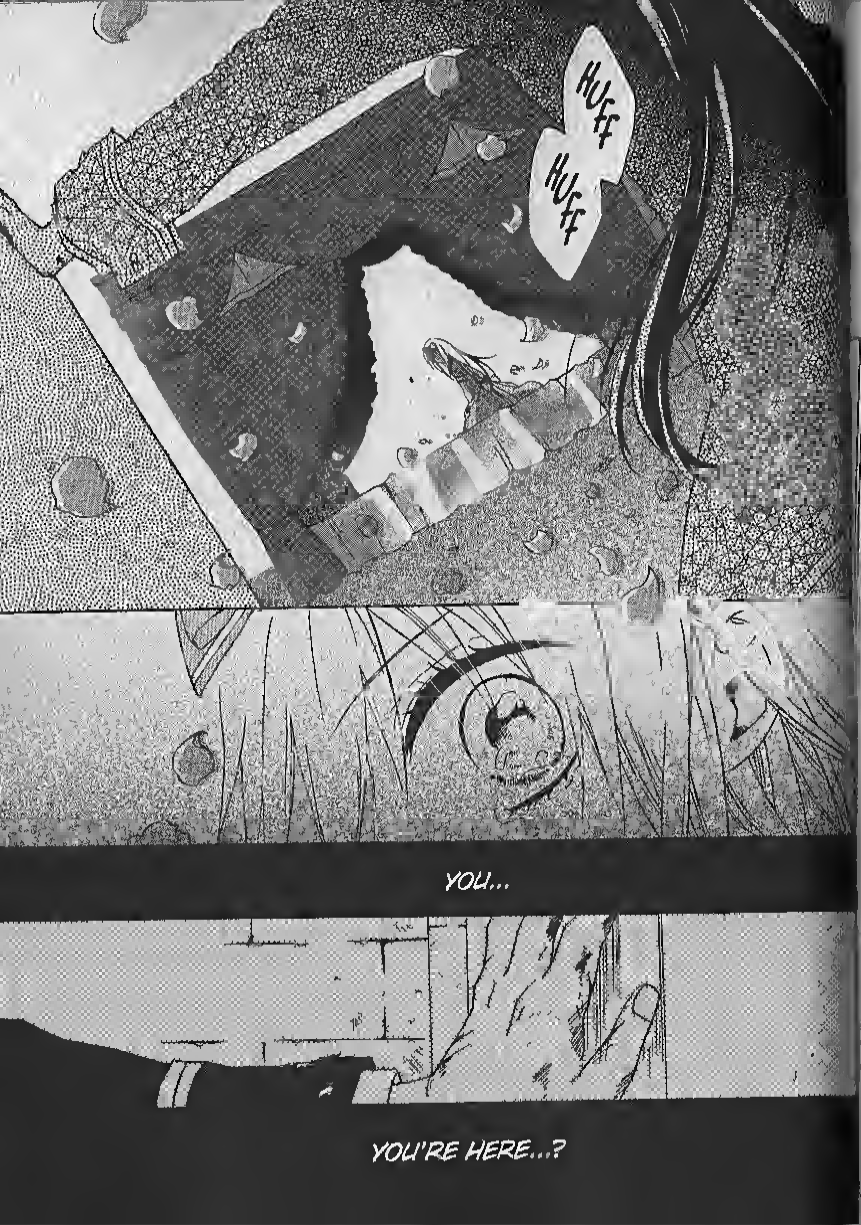
TELL ALICE...
THAT SHE OWES ME A CUP OF COFFEE WHEN WE GET HOME ♡
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
DASH
.....
NOW, THEN.
I MAY HAVE SUMMONED YOU...
SLURP
BUT...
CHINK
YOU MADE THE MISTAKE OF PICKING A FIGHT WITH ME.

SHE MUST BE ON THE OTHER SIDE...
!
PRICK
GUNS WILL BE USELESS AGAINST THESE THORNS...
SO...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...

THORNS ...?!

I WANT TO BE WITH HIM...!
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE CLOCK TOWER, AND JULIUS...
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND...
I'M IN LOVE WITH JULIUS.
GRAB


GRAB
I WANT TO GO BACK.
BUT, MY REAL FEELINGS...
I KNOW THAT I'M BEING CONTR... DICTORY...
JULIUS REJECTED ME...
AND I LEFT THE CLOCK TOWER OF MY OWN FREE WILL...
BUT WHEN I WAS LOST IN THE FOREST AND WHEN I FELL DOWN THAT CLIFF...
PART OF ME WAS HOPING THAT JULIUS WOULD COME FOR ME.


HUFF
HUFF
YOU...
YOU'RE HERE...?

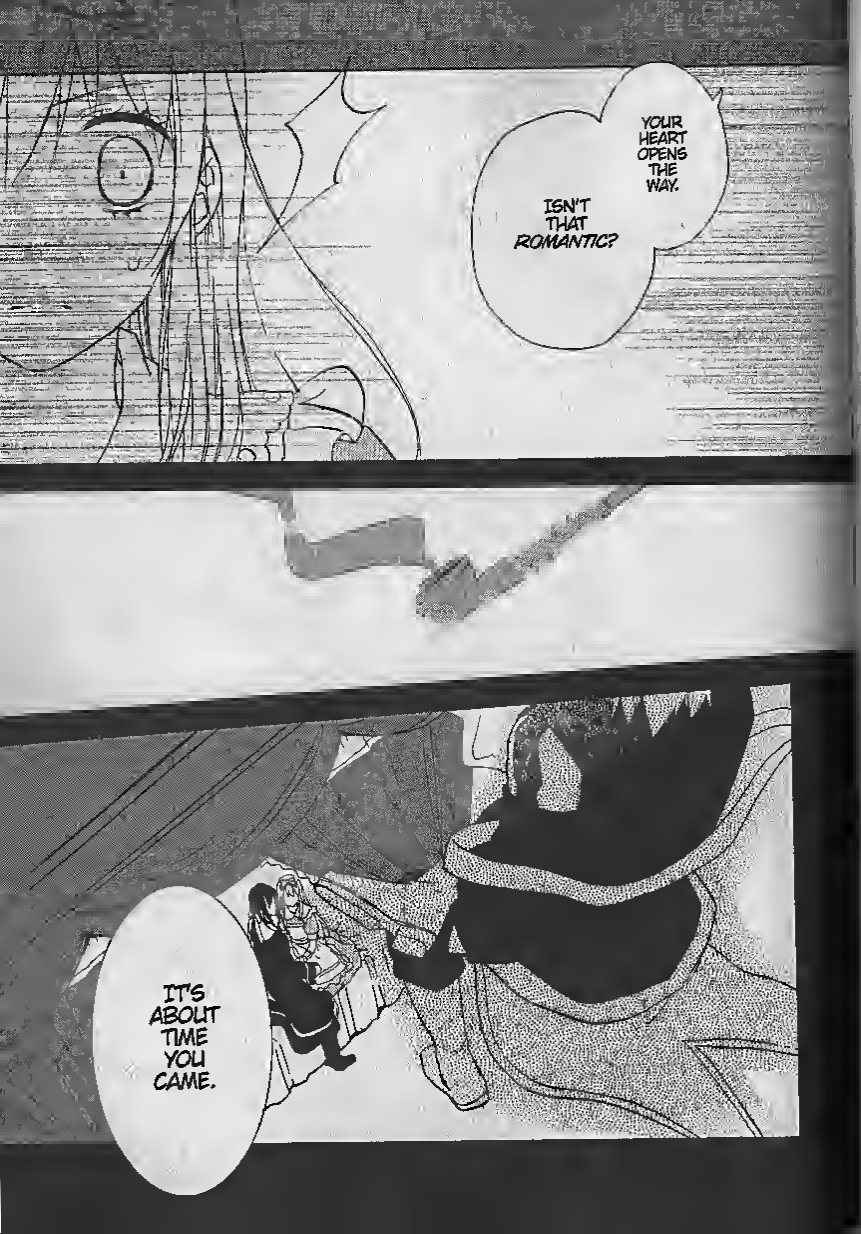
110
CRUSH
I'M SUCH A FOOL.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF REALIZING THIS NOW?
HE DOESN'T KNOW.
HE WON'T COME FOR ME.
ドカーン!

—JULIUS—!
I'VE COME...
TO RESCUE YOU.
WE'RE GOING HOME!
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
STEP
YOU KICKED ME OUT.
BUT, WHY...
THAT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT I WANT TO SAY.
DAMMIT...
MY THOUGHTS ARE ALL MUDDLED.
STEP
STEP
THUNK
KYAA!

STROKE
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE AGAIN.
STAY WITH ME FOREVER...
ALICE.
SQUEEZE
BUT...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KICKED ME OUT.
AND NOW YOU'RE SAYING, "COME HOME AND STAY WITH ME."
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CONTRADICTORY?
.....!
I KICKED YOU OUT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
GASP!
JULIUS! YOU'RE BLEEDING ...!
DID HE GET HURT COMING TO FIND ME...?!
YOU NEED TO GET THAT TREATED RIGHT AWAY!
NEVER MIND THAT NOW. THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT.
CLASP
WHAT... DID HE JUST...?
DRIP
DRIP

BUT, JULIUS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT THE DOOR TO THIS ROOM OPEN.
YES, ON MY WAY UP THE STAIRS WERE COMPLETELY COVERED WITH THORNS...
BUT THEN THEY SUDDENLY TURNED INTO FLOWER PETALS.
YOU HIT IT...?
WHAT A TOMBOY
I TRIED EVERY-THING... I KEPT HITTING IT WITH A CHAIR...
THE THORNS JUST WOULDN'T BUDGE.
HOW DID YOU MANAGE IT?
I HADN'T EVEN NOTICED...
THORNS TURNED INTO PETALS... BUT WHY?
IT'S BECAUSE...
THE THORNS WERE LINKED TO YOUR HEART.

HE GOT SO BADLY HURT...
COMING TO SAVE ME.
YES.
THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE IT REAL.


YOUR HEART OPENS THE WAY.
ISN'T THAT ROMANTIC?
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME.

?!
YOU ACCEPTED YOUR TRUE FEELINGS,
AND YOU WISHED FOR JULIUS, STUCK BEHIND THORNS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR
BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
THAT'S WHY THE THORNS THAT WERE BLOCKING JULIUS MELTED AWAY

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Alice in the Country of Hearts

Love Labyrinth of Thorns

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FINALLY MADE IT.
WELL...
BRAVO, BRAVO.
CLAP
CLAP
SNAP
YOU...
QUIT FOOLING AROUND!!
YOU PROMISED! TAKE US BACK TO THE CLOCK TOWER!
WE DID WHAT YOU WANTED!!
ARE YOU SURE?

NIGHT-MARE!!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME.
I WAS GROWING TIRED OF WAITING.
HOW-EVER...
TOK...

CAN YOU STAKE YOUR HAPPINESS ON SOMETHING SO UNCERTAIN?
RIGHT NOW, YOU CAN STILL CHOOSE TO GO BACK TO YOUR OWN WORLD.
WILL YOU EVEN GIVE UP YOUR OLD WORLD FOR IT?
WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?
I'M PRETTY SURE I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME.
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT A PERSON'S HEART WILL STAY THE SAME FOREVER.
PEOPLE'S FEELINGS DO CHANGE CONSTANTLY
BUT...
IF I DECIDE TO SAY HERE...
YES, IT'S TRUE.

CAN CHANGE AT ANY MOMENT, YOU KNOW.
A PERSON'S FEELINGS...
HUH...?
SWISH!
THE SMALLEST THINGS CAN CAUSE A HEART TO FLY.
AND ONCE GONE, IT WILL NEVER RETURN QUITE THE SAME.

SMILE
I SEE.
SO THAT'S YOUR CHOICE, THEN...
YES.
IT WILL DO NICELY.
SWIP...

110
SNAP
チン
AS PROMISED, I'LL RETURN YOU TO THE CLOCK TOWER.
HUH?
ATMOSPH

EVEN KNOWING THAT..
I WANT TO STAY AT THE CLOCK TOWER.
BUT...
CRASH

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT MY FEELINGS I MIGHT BECOME...
AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
SQUEEZE
HM...

ALICE!!
GYAAAAH—!
IF...
IF YOU'RE REALLY ON MY SIDE, SEND ME BACK IN A LESS TERRIFYING WAY--!!!
FWIP
WELL...
I WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO BRING THEM TOGETHER.
DON'T YOU DARE UNDO IT...
?!
THWOOP
CALL ME IF YOU EVER GET SICK OF HIM.
GRIN
I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE.

I DON'T TRUST YOU!!
BLUNT
WHOA! SO MEAN!
BY THE WAY.
WHY DID YOU SET UP THIS CRAZY GAME?
WITH A TOWER EVEN
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT SONG AND DANCE.
WHY NOT JUST ASK THEM?
IF I DID THAT, ASKING THEM ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS DIRECTLY..
DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D GIVE AN HONEST ANSWER?
.....

CLINK
KNIGHT OF HEARTS.
SHEESH.
OKAY, YOU GOT ME.
I'LL SEND YOU BACK RIGHT NOW, BUT..
TREAD CAREFULLY.
YEAH, I KNOW.
I LOVE THEM BOTH.
I WON'T GET IN THE WAY.

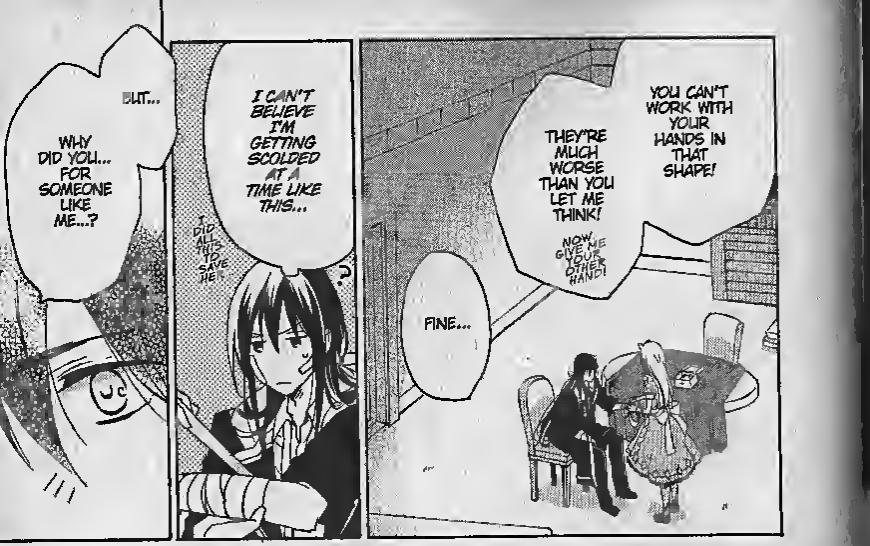
CLACK
CLICK
THIS IS A GAME, AFTER ALL.
GRIN...
IF YOU USE EVERYTHING TO YOUR ADVANTAGE AND MAKE IT ELABORATE AND ROMANTIC...
ISN'T IT MORE INTERESTING?
YOU'RE QUITE THE BASTARD.
I SEE, SO HE USED ME AS WELL.

SHE'S JUST A CRAZY FREELOADER!
WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY!
HUH?!
Q: AREN'T YOU TWO LIVING TOGETHER BECAUSE YOU LOVE EACH OTHER?
OF... OF COURSE NOT!!
I JUST LIKE LIVING IN THE SAME BLOCK AS HER!
AND THEY'D THINK THEY MEANT IT, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THEIR FEELINGS.

HMM
000

ALICE FALLING DOWN THE CLIFF WASN'T IN MY PLANS, BUT...
IT WAS A GOOD CATALYST.
HUH?

RIGHT?
NOPE, NOT IN A MILLION YEARS.
GOOD POINT.

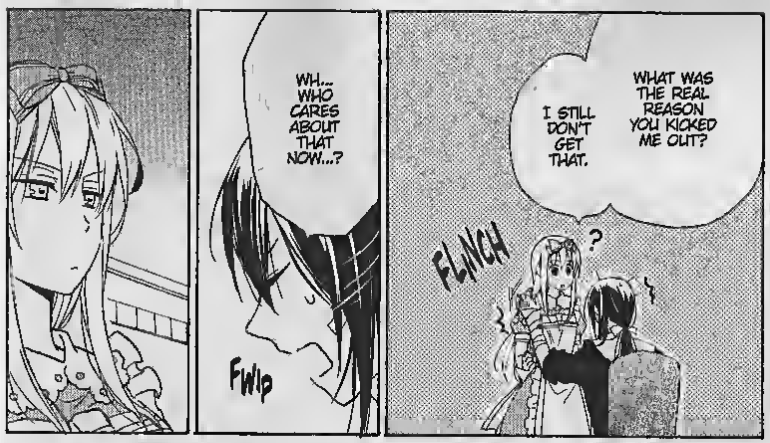

BUT...
WHY DID YOU... FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING SCOLDED AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
I DID ALL THIS TO SAVE HER.
YOU CAN'T WORK WITH YOUR HANDS IN THAT SHAPE!
THEY'RE MUCH WORSE THAN YOU LET ME THINK!
NOW GIVE ME YOUR OTHER HAND!
FINE...

I'M SORRY.
THANK YOU.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...

THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY COMING FROM YOU.
HEY--I THINK I'M A PRETTY GOOD PERSON.
HOW OFFENSIVE
TRULY GOOD PEOPLE DON'T CALL THEMSELVES GOOD!
WHAT?!

JEEZ!
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD!
PULL

I WAS WORRIED THAT WHEN YOU WANTED TO GO BACK...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LET YOU GO...
I DIDN'T REALIZE BUT...
WE CAN'T HELP BUT GROW ATTACHED.
IF WE GET TOO INVOLVED...
SO... THAT IS...
IDIOT ...?!
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!!
BECAUSE HE WAS THINKING ABOUT ME GOING BACK TO MY OWN WORLD...?
COULD IT ALL HAVE BEEN...


WH... WHO CARES ABOUT THAT NOW...?
FWIP
I STILL DON'T GET THAT.
WHAT WAS THE REAL REASON YOU KICKED ME OUT?
FLINCH
?

GUH...
THAT'D BE EVEN WORSE
DON'T WORRY! I'LL FIND MY WAY THERE EVENTUALLY!
I SHOULD LEAVE AGAIN AND GET CAPTURED WITH ACE NEXT TIME.

IN YOUR OLD WORLD, DON'T YOU?
YOU HAVE A HOME WAITING FOR YOU...
SIGH...
FINE, I'LL CONFESS.

THAT'S ALL CHANGED.
BUT...
OF COURSE.
IT... IT'S TRUE...
THAT I WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNING ON GOING BACK.
BECAUSE...
I REALIZED IT.
THAT I...
LOVE YOU!
.....

DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO MY OLD WORLD.
I'VE DECIDED TO STAY WITH YOU FOREVER, JULIUS.

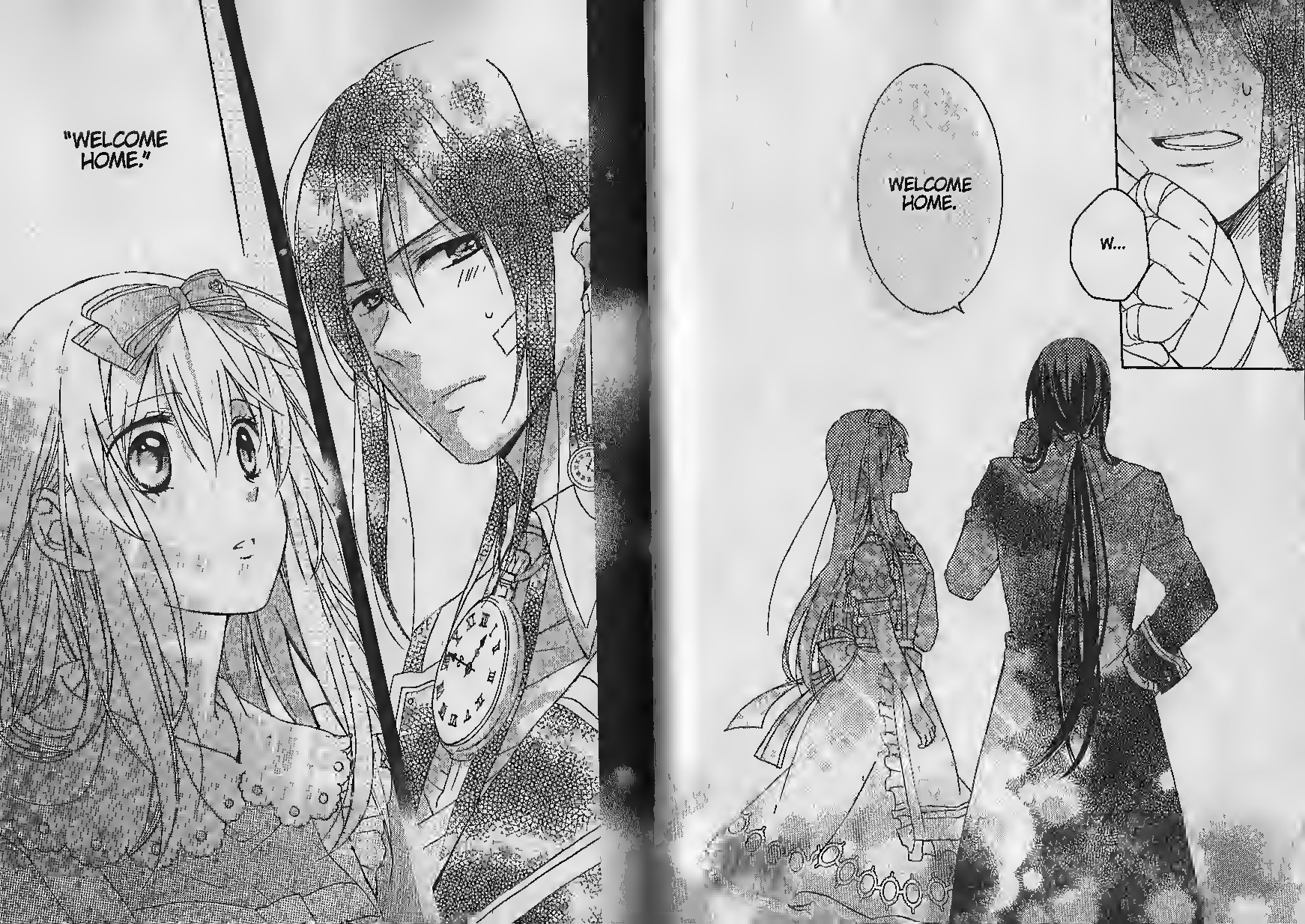
T... TEASING...?!
HUH ...?!
N... NO.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TRYING TO...!
CHUCKLE
YOU ARE ALWAYS...
SO GOOD AT TEASING ME.
HEY
JU... JULIUS...
YOUR HANDS...
CLATTER
ROLL ROLL
MY GOODNESS.
KYAA ...?!
HUH?
CLATTER
GRIP...
HUH ...?

HUFF
YIKES
I TOLD YOU...
I NEED TO...
SQUEEZE
GLUNK
?!

MM...
!
CLATTER
!!!
HUFF
WAIT...
H-HANG ON, JULIUS.
I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF BANDAGING YOU...
JULIU...
!

TELL ME WHAT ...?
OH, ABOUT THE THANK YOU COFFEE?
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO REMIND ME! SHEESH--!
DID YOU TELL HER YET?
NO.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
WELL, THAT, TOO.
.....
WHAT IS IT?
I'M REALLY CONFUSED
.....

AW, YOU'RE STOPPING?
K--!
KYAA-AAH!!
ACE, HOW LONG WERE YOU--?!
I WAS THINKING OF JOINING IN IF YOU WENT ANY FURTHER...
OH WELL.
DARN
OH!
BY THE WAY, JULIUS.
JEEZ
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
OH, NOTHING.


"WELCOME HOME."
WELCOME HOME.
W...

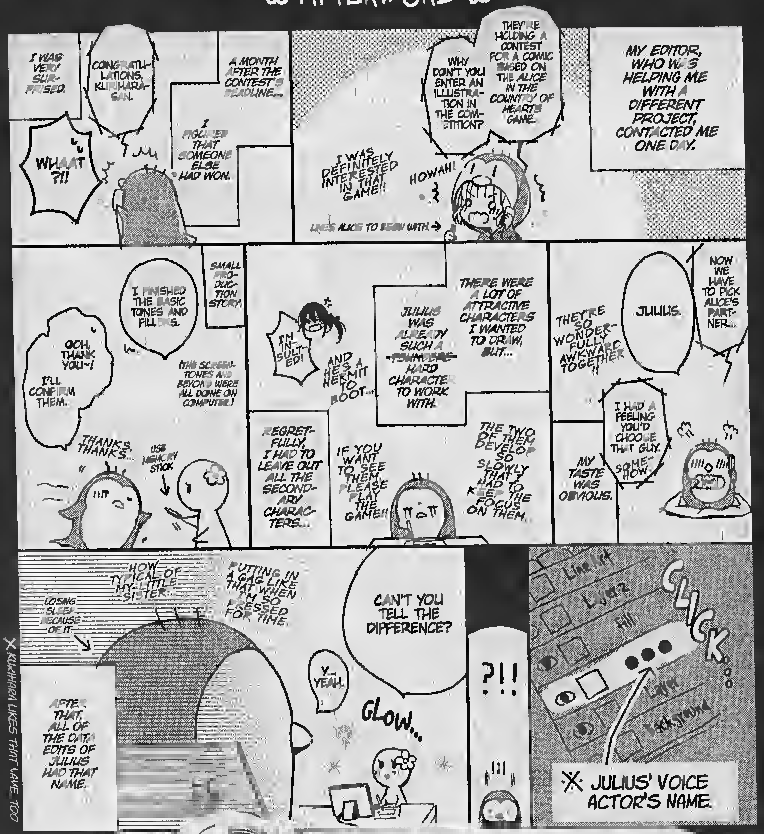
I'M HOME!
THIS IS THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I SNAPPED LIKE THAT...
OH, JEEZ.
UGH
I'M EVERY BIT AS CRANKY AS JULIUS.
COME ON, SMILE!
STOP IT!
SH-SHUT UP!!
YOU EVEN MANAGED TO LOOK GRUMPY SAYING THAT!
YEAH, JULIUS!
Y...
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, JULIUS!
YES.
BUT...

Alice the Great and Terrible
OUT SHOPPING
.....
I HEARD THAT SHE'S TAMED A DRAGON THAT LIVES IN THE MOUNTAINS.
CHATTER
I HEARD THAT NO MAN WHO'S PICKED ON HER HAS EVER LIVED TO TELL THE TALE.
CHATTER
I HEARD THAT SHE MASSACRED A HUGE GROUP OF SOLDIERS ALL BY HERSELF.
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT OUTSIDER?
WHISPER
WHISPER
EVEN MORE TIME PERIODS LATER.
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT MYSELF ON MY OWN!
IF I'M GOING TO STAY IN THIS WORLD...
ALICE.
STAY BY MY SIDE FROM NOW ON..
I'LL PROTECT YOU SO PLEASE DON'T BE SCARED.
WHY ARE YOU SHAKING?
YOU'RE SO WEIRD, JULIUS
A FEW TIME PERIODS LATER.
I'M OFF
NOT AGAIN
ANOTHER ABSURD IDEA..
DASH
SO I'M GOING OUT TO TRAIN!!

YOU, WHOSE HEART WAS STOLEN,
GAME... CLEAR.
STAY WITHIN THIS DREAM OF HAPPINESS FOREVER.
THE END

✿ AFTERWORD ✿


I WAS VERY SURPRISED.
CONGRATULATIONS, KUSHIDA-SAN.
WHAT?!!
A MONTH AFTER THE CONTEST'S DEADLINE...
I FIGURED THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAD WON.
THEY'RE HOLDING A CONTEST FOR A COMIC BASED ON THE ALICE IN THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS GAME.
WHY DON'T YOU ENTER AN ILLUSTRATION IN THE COMPETITION?
I WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN THAT GAME!!
HOWAH!
LIKES ALICE TO BEGIN WITH →
MY EDITOR, WHO WAS HELPING ME WITH A DIFFERENT PROJECT, CONTACTED ME ONE DAY.
I FINISHED THE BASIC TONES AND FILLINGS.
OOH, THANK YOU-I'LL CONFIRM THEM.
SMALL PRODUCTION STORY:
THIS SCREEN-TONES AND BRUSHES WERE ALL DONE ON COMPUTER!
I'M IN SHOCK!!
AND HERMIT TO BOOT...
JULIUS WAS ALICE...BY SUCH A TORMENTOR-HARD CHARACTER TO WORK WITH.
THERE WERE A LOT OF ATTRACTIVE CHARACTERS I WANTED TO DRAW, BUT...
REGRETFULLY, I HAD TO LEAVE OUT ALL THE SECONDARY CHARACTERS...
IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM, PLEASE PLAY THE GAME!!
THE TWO OF THEM DEVELOPED SO SLOWLY THAT I HAD TO KEEP THE FOCUS ON THEM.
THEY'RE SO WONDERFULLY AWKWARD TOGETHER!!
JULIUS.
NOW WE HAVE TO PICK ALICE'S PARTNER...
I HAD A FEELING YOU'D CHOOSE THAT GUY.
SAME HERE.
MY TASTE WAS OBVIOUS.
THANKS, THANKS...
USE MEDICINAL STICK
HOW TYPICAL OF MY LITTLE SISTER.
LOSING SLEEP BECAUSE OF IT.
PUTTING IN A THING LIKE THAT WHEN I'M SO PRESSED FOR TIME.
AFTER THAT, ALL OF THE CAT-EARS EDITS OF JULIUS HAD THAT NAME.
CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?
Y-YEAH.
GLOW...
?!!
CLICK
※ JULIUS' VOICE ACTOR'S NAME.

※ KUSHIDA LIKES THAT NAME, TOO

~Special Thanks~

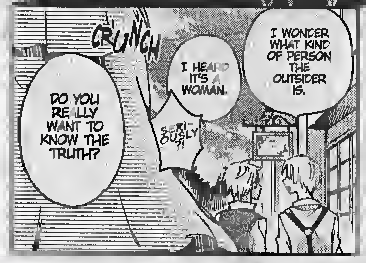
✿ Editor T-sama and S-sama

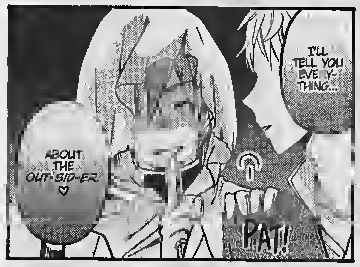
✿ My family and friends who support me

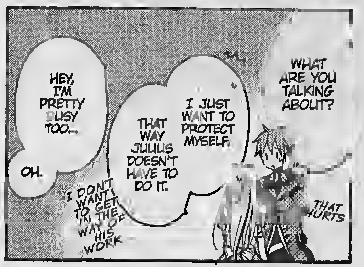
✿ Little Sister

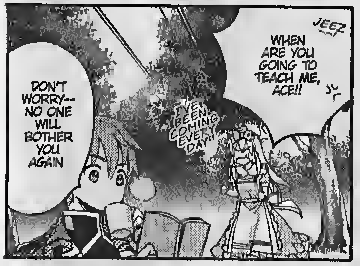
✿ QuinRose-sama!

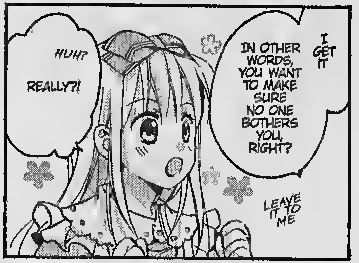
Thank you very much for reading!






HEY, I'M PRETTY BUSY TOO...
OH.
I JUST WANT TO PROTECT MYSELF.
THAT WAY JULIUS DOESN'T HAVE TO DO IT.
I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY OF HIS WORK
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT HURTS





THE END!